FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FOREIGN MINISTER CAPUTO ON FALKLANDS, BEAGLE

PY280300 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2335 GMT 27 Apr 84

[By Rubek Orlando]

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- In statements made to the news agency TELAM in Montevideo, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said regarding the Malvinas conflict that the international community is aware of the British inflexibility in establishing negotiations.

At the end of a work meeting held yesterday by the Latin American Integrarion Association's (ALADI) Council of Ministers, Caputo said that the Anglo-Argentine conflict over the Malvinas is extremely complex.

"The whole international community," the minister said, "has witnessed the British inflexibility in establishing negotiations," adding that Argentina maintains that only diplomatic negotiations will resolve the conflict and that to begin diplomatic negotiations there must be a dialogue first.

"Obviously, neither the Argentine people nor the Argentine Government can implicitly or explicitly accept giving up sovereignty over the islands in order to sit at a negotiating table," the minister remarked.

He added that Argentina expects the British Government to understand that it cannot impose conditions that are unacceptable to the Argentine Government.

Caputo made it clear that Argentina totally believes in the need to restore dialogue. However, he said that Argentina also believes that this dialogue can by no means depend on Argentina's giving up its sovereignty over the islands.

Regarding the border dispute with Chile over the Beagle Channel, the Argentine foreign minister said he was optimistic about a positive outcome of the Vatican mediation, but he said he could not establish any specific date.

Caputo noted that the negotiations are intense and complex, but said he is confident that a solution will be forthcoming soon.

Montevideo diplomatic sources have reported that Caputo and his Chilean counterpart, Jaime del Valle, have been holding informal meetings on the issue over the past few days.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON ECONOMY, OTHER ISSUES

PY272040 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1804 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (DYN) -- Presidential Secretary General German Lopez today said that President Raul Alfonsin is "greatly concerned" over attitudes adopted in financial circles, because loans earmarked for production "are being used for secondary purposes, which means that financial speculation is continuing."

Lopez said that Central Bank officials are analyzing a set of measures to change this situation, which has also prompted the drawing up on a priority basis of a new law on financial institutions. Lopez expressed his belief that this law must be enacted "as soon as possible."

During an informal meeting with journalists today, the presidential secretary general said that despite "the great effort" being made to secure loans for the industrial sector, "financial speculation is continuing."

Lopez noted that the government is greatly concerned over the behavior of large firms, particularly in the motor industry, which "do not produce, withdraw their products from the market, and excessively increase their prices and their workers' wages." Lopez said that these increases are not caused by market rules but rather by politically motivated maneuvers. He said, however, that the government has "the necessary means and power" to correct this situation and it will use them, "because a democracy must be vigorous and capable of dealing blows where it is required."

He added that the government is aware that Argentine investments abroad "are equivalent to much more than half our foreign debt," indicating that only "clear policies" will change this situation.

Lopez said that "the behaviour of financial institutions is one of the greatest obstacles" to the economic takeoff being sought. However, he added that "those who demand excessive wage increases are equally responsible, because they only contribute to increasing inflation."

Lopez said that although there are no reliable figures, it can be said that the unemployment rate has dropped "remarkably" and that there are signs of industrial reactivation, particularly in the textile sector, which "is operating at full swing, although we do not know why the prices of textile products have increased so much."

Referring to labor policy, Lopez said in reply to a question that Juan Manuel Casella, the new labor minister, was chosen because of "his intelligence, uprightness, great capacity, and unbiased ideas, and because he is an adequate person for an open, frank dialogue, who will take over the Labor Ministry without preconceived ideas." He said that the labor minister's task is "very exhausting," because he must deal with "extremely polemical" matters, such as the labor union reorganization, so the person who takes over this post "is bound to be replaced soon."

Asked whether the appointment of a politician as labor minister could diminish his own role as an "ideologist," which has always been attributed to Lopez, Lopez said that Casella's appointment has "cleared things a bit" because it makes clear that the labor minister is totally autonomous and is subordinate only to the president of the Republic."

However, he said that reports on Lopez' influence on labor policy were made by "certain sectors to diminish the image" of former Minister Antonio Mucci. He added that it has been proven that "Mucci has a great personality and does not need to rely on anyone's ideological views."

Lopez said that Casella's work will not overlap with that of Hugo Barrionuevo, presidential representative to union negotiations, because "they will act in a very coordinated manner."

Turning to another subject, Lopez confirmed reports that indicated that a price and wage council is being created to study measures which will be applied within a period of 90 days and to seek the approval of the sectors concerned.

Asked whether it is true that President Raul Alfonsin talked over the phone with former President Maria Estela Martinez Peron over Easter, Lopez said that "considering that Alfonsin's personality is marked by affection and tenderness, it is not unlikely that he could have thought of talking with Mrs Peron to greet her on such a special occasion."

Asked about a statement made by the former finance secretary during the military regime, Juan Alemann, who predicted a coup in 1985, Lopez concluded by saying that it is simply the "expression of a hope of an irrepressible desire."

AIR FORCE GENERALS RELIEVED FROM POSTS

PY271500 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1615 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (TELAM) -- Today the executive branch ordered that 21 Air Force brigadiers be relieved from their posts and six others be assigned to new posts.

The measure was adopted through decree No 1,264, based on reports made by the Air Force chief of staff and on the names proposed by the defense minister.

Here are the appointments: Brigadier Vion Carlos Yocca, Military Aviation School director; Brigadier Roberto Augusto Ventura, Air Regions Command chief of staff; Brigadier Luis Rafael Alberto Barreira, director general of supplies; Brigadier Hugo Ventura, Supply Command chief of staff: Brigadier Nelsis Natalio Juan Rondoni, Air Operations Command chief of staff, and Brigadier Jose Angel Gutierrez, on temporary duty at the Air Force General Staff.

The following high-ranking Air Force officers have been relieved from their posts: Brigadier Julio Cesar Bengolea, chief of Section I (personnel); Brigadier Oscar Jose Julia, Cordoba supply area chief; Brigadier Alberto Cristobal Simari, Air Force secretary general; Brigadier Jorge Benito Nisi, Military Aviation School director; Brigadier Ernesto Horacio Crespo, Air Operations Command chief of staff; Brigadier Jose Apolo Gonzalez, Supply Command chief of staff; Brigadier Roberto Fernando Camblor, Air Defense Command chief of staff; Brigadier Cesar Augusto Carreras, director general of supplies and of supply procurement and administration; Brigadier Enrique Ramon Valenzuela, 1st Air Brigade commander; Brigadier Carlos Alberto Jose de Blasis, 4th Air Brigade commander; Brigadier Vion Carlo Yocca, chief of Department V (aeronautical interest): Brigadier Roberto Augusto Ventura, Training Command chief of staff; Brigadier Julio Cesar Santuccione, chief of Department II (intelligence); Brigadier Luis Rafael Alberto Barreira, production director general in the Cordoba supply area; Brigadier Hugo Ventura, chief of Department III (operations): Brigadier Nelsis Natalio Juan Rondoni, commander of the 6th Air Brigade; Brigadier Juan Jose Athes Etcheverry, commander of the 8th Air Brigade; Brigadier Jose Angel Gutierrez, commander of the 5th Air Brigade; Brigadier Roberto Oscar Marconi, general legal adviser; and Brigadier Ernesto Alfredo Antes, accounting and finance director general.

GEN MENENDEZ AT DISPOSAL OF ARMED FORCES COUNCIL

PY271720 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1640 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (TELAM) -- As of noon today, former Malvinas Islands Governor General Mario Benjamin Menendez, retired, is at the disposal of the Armed Forces Supreme Council after testifying at the trial of those responsible for conducting the South Atlantic conflict.

This was reported by Colonel Jorge Gonzalez Ramirez, retired, secretary of the Supreme Council, who met with the media after Menendez left at 1300 in a car, accompanied by his attorney General Rogelio Villarreal, retired, without making any statements.

Menendez, who testified before the Council from 0855 until 1300, has been placed at the disposal of the Armed Forces Supreme Council, which means that he will not be able to leave the capital without the council's authorization.

More Put at Council's Disposal

FY280342 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2135 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (NA) -- After questioning Brigadier Helmut Con ado Weber, retired, General Omar Parada, retired, and Lieutenant Colonel Italo Piaggi, retired, in connection with their responsibility for the military defeat in the Malvinas war, the Armed Forces Supreme Council decided to put these officers at its disposal, without restricting their liberty.

EX-GENERAL SUAREZ MASON DISCHARGED FROM ARMY

FY280103 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0016 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- It was reported at the Defense Ministry this afternoon that Major General Carlos Guillermo Suarez Mason, retired, has been discharged from the Army. The resolution, which is dated 24 April, has been endorsed by Defense Minister Raul Borras.

Suarez Mason was accused by the government of having committed abuses during the fight against subversion while he served as commander of the I Corps, which has jurisdiction over the federal capital and Buenos Aires Province.

Suarez Mason has been repeatedly summoned to appear before the Armed Forces Supreme Council, including through court notices published in newspapers, but he never appeared.

The last news about Suarez Mason was an interview published by the weekly SIETE DIAS, which appeared when he was already in hiding. During the interview, Suarez Mason reportedly said he would leave the country because he did not want to be used as a scapegoat. Various reports later indicated that he was in Venezuela, Taiwan, or Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Suarez Mason is wanted by a civil court in connection with the investigation of the disappearance of National Industrial Technology Institute technician Alfredo Giorgi.

He is also wanted for his responsibility for debts contracted by Government Oil Deposits YPF] when he served as YPF president. The administative investigations national prosecutor has disclosed that Suarez Mason's responsibility for the adultered fuel case is reportedly complex.

On 27 March, Army Chief of Staff General Jorge Arguidegui asked the defense minister to discharge Suarez Mason.

PERONISTS DEBATE CONGRESSIONAL, BRANCH LEADERS

FY270200 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Apr 84 p 11

Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Peronist Lower House caucus unanimously endorsed the leadership of Diego Ibanez after a meeting yesterday and caucus second vice president Ruben Cardozo (Santa Fe) raised the possibility that Deputy Speaker Adam Pedrini Chaco) could be removed from his post, as a majority of Justicialist deputies questioned his political behaviour. Pedrini might submit his resignation tomorrow afternoon, party sources reported.

Meanwhile the crisis in the Buenos Aires branch of the party appeared to be simmering down after late on Tuesday night Justicialist Party vice president Lorenzo Miguel managed to establish a truce until tomorrow. Provincial party leader Herminio Iglesias and federal Deputy Alberto Melon called a press conference for today at which they are expected to name a date for a provincial party congress to meet. however, they will reportedly exclude the possibility of any primaries ahead of schedule.

As well as confirming its leadership, the Peronist Chamber of Deputies caucus also called for Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun to be grilled in Congress on the foreign debt negotiations and appealed to former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron to return.

AUTHORITIES DETAIN TWO FOR ARMS POSSESSION

PY262143 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1505 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpts] La Plata, 25 Apr (DYN) -- Today Security Under Secretary Hector Bertoncellos disclosed that during an operation carried out at dawn yesterday, the police forces arrested two individuals carrying arms. The two persons identified themselves as advisers of the national Justicialist bloc of deputies and members of an extreme rightist organization that was planning "to strike a hard blow," of which no further information was given.

According to Bertoncellos, at dawn yesterday operatives from Buenos Aires Police Station No 4 arrested two individuals who were riding in a Ford Fairlane along 44th Street between 159th and 160th Streets, in the Lisandro Olmos neighborhood. The vehicle was detained under suspicion and its passengers obeyed the police order without resistance.

Carlos Castillo and Jorge Dacharri identified themselves as advisers of the national Justicialist bloc of deputies and produced credentials as proof. Nevertheless, the policemen proceeded to inspect the vehicle and frisk the passengers, finding arms, some of which are considered war arms because of their caliber, as well as a great quantity of ammunition. At the time of their detention the two individuals were carrying a 3.8-mm machinegun equipped with a U.S.-made silencer, a 9-mm submachinegun also equipped with a silencer. 38-mm revolver, and a 22-mm revolver.

As they were being taken to the police station, the two individuals stated that they belonged to a rightist organization but did not reveal its name. Various reports linked Castillo with an extreme rightist organization for which, until not long ago, he served a sentence in Olmos Prison.

It was also learned that the arms the two individuals were carrying when they were detained had allegedly been brought into the country illegally from Paraguay.

Justicialists Deny Link

PY270400 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2310 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (NA) -- The national Justicialist bloc of deputies today stated that two men who were detained by the Buenos Aires provincial police while carrying arms and who claimed to work for Justicialist Party [PJ] legislators "are neither members of the body of advisers nor employees of the PJ bloc." The denial was formally made by the PJ bloc one day after the La Plata police announced the detention of Carlos Castillo and Jorge Dacharri, who claimed to be "advisers" of the bloc and produced the appropriate credentials. In a terse communique, the PJ bloc says: "If they produced credentials, they must be false."

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED WITH BRAZIL

PY261533 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0123 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (TELAM) -- At the conclusion of 3 days of discussions by the various work groups, the Argentine-Brazilian Economic Planning Commission has signed a letter of understanding that refers to topics regarding bilateral trade and to other matters that are linked to multilateral economic organizations and economic integration.

Commerce Secretary Ricardo Campero, Commerce Under Secretary Nestor Stancanelli, and Foreign Ministry International Economic Relations Under Secretary Jorge Romero signed the document for Argentina. Foreign Ministry Economic Department Director Carlos Augusto de Proenca Rosa and the secretary of international economic and technical coordination of the Planning Secretariat of the presidency, Jose Botafogo Goncalves, signed for Brazil.

Commerce Secretary Campero spoke to highlight the importance of the reciprocal trade and economic agreements. He said that in a world that is full of tension in the trade sector and due to the conditions imposed on international cooperation, Argentina and Brazil are blazing a new trail. Campero pointed out that our country will not only comply with the terms of the letter of understanding, it will also contribute to achieving greater objectives for the recovery of the two countries.

After Campero spoke, Ambassadors Proenca Rosa and Botafoga Goncalves made similar statements. They highlighted the importance of achieving complementary economies.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Botafogo Goncalves told TELAM that the letter of understanding is very important because it totally changes the traditional outlook of the bilateral trade between the two countries. The Brazilian official stated that concentration in this sector of the economy is now being sought to stimulate its development and balance the trade between the two countries. The main objective, he indicated, is to complement the two economies, which are competitive today, and that this be reflected in a greater use of manpower that will benefit society.

[Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 0152 GMT on 26 April reports: "The letter of understanding that has been signed by Argentina and Brazil after 3 days of discussions will not yet be made public because each nation must implement the measures that will bring it into force."]

INDIAN PRESIDENT SINGH ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY271225 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1154 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- The president of India, Zail Singh, arrived at Ezeiza Airport at 0850, beginning an official 3-day visit to our country. The chief of state of India immediately flew to the Jorge Newberry Metropolitan Airport, where President Raul Alfonsin will welcome him.

Meets With Alfonsin, Others

PY271925 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1712 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- The Presidents of Argentina and India, Raul Alfonsin and Zail Singh, today held their first meeting during the official visit which the president of India is making to our country. Alfonsin and Singh talked for 20 minutes at the presidential office at Government House, with the participation of Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, Argentine Ambassador to India Francisco Fernandes Escalante, and members of the official delegation accompanying the president of India during his visit to Latin America.

Singh arrived accompanied by External Affairs Ministry Under Secretary Natwar Singh, External Affairs Ministry Under Secretary S.M.S. Chadha, Indian Ambassador to Buenos Aires Ial Mehrotra, and other officials.

Alfonsin Addresses Dinner

PY282211 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0223 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- Tonight President Raul Alfonsin spoke at the end of a dinner hosted for Indian President Zail Singh at the Errazuriz Palace, seat of the Decorative Art Museum, on the occasion of the visit paid to Argentina by the Indian head of state.

Alfonsin said that Argentina's international activities are based on respect for the rules and principles included in the UN Charter and on the basis of the Nonaligned Movement, which is chaired by India. He said that these principles are: protection of sovereignty and territorial integration, nonintervention, noninterference in the domestic and foreign affairs of other countries, the elimination of colonialism and every other form of foreign domination as well as that of the apartheid and any other kind of racial discrimination, the peaceful settlement of controversies, respect for human rights, political pluralism, and economic and social development.

Alfonsin said that Argentina is convinced that nonalignment seeks much more than just refraining from participating in military alliances and remaining neutral during armed conflicts. He said that it also seeks to reduce or eliminate the risk posed by a confrontation between hostile blocs by staying away from them to expand the area of world peace and by adopting political and economic measures designed to eradicate the causes of underdevelopment and despotism.

He said that India and Argentina must increase bilateral relations first, adding that the Argentine Government is firmly committed to increasing bilateral trade and cooperation. We believe, he said, that the creation of a permanent consultative system between the two countries will greatly contribute to determining matters of common interest and coordinating joint international and interregional actions.

The president then said that the two governments totally agree with the need to overcome vestiges of colonialism and stop any other form of foreign world domination. Therefore, he said, I must warmly express appreciation for the understanding shown and unyielding support given by India to Argentina in its struggle to restore sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands.

PROTESTERS AT URUGUAYAN EMBASSY DEMAND AMNESTY

PY271930 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0035 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (DYN) -- Approximately 1,500 persons today demanded unrestricted amnesty for Uruguayan political parties and labor organizations during a demonstration in front of the Uruguayan Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Leaders of the Colorado and National (Blanco) Parties, including the son of proscribed presidential candidate Wilson Ferreira Aldunate -- Juan Raul Ferreira -- and of the Argentine Board of the National Convention of Uruguayan Workers [Mesa Argentina de la Convencion Nacional de Trabajadores del Uruguay], took part in the demonstration.

The socialist Guillermo Frugoni Rey also participated. He submitted a petition to the Uruguayan Embassy demanding an overall and unrestricted amnesty, the release of political and labor union prisoners, and economic solutions for the Uruguayan people, among other things.

The protest demonstration began at 1945 on the corner of Pueyrredon and Las Heras Streets, from where the demonstrators, carrying placards, marched to the Uruguayan Embassy, where they submitted the petition signed by Uruguayan and Argentine political and labor personalities.

The demonstrators then began to shout slogans criticizing the authorities of the neighboring country's military regime. The following slogans were heard: With neither torture nor chains will the Uruguayans be cowered; Gorillas get out of Latin America; and The dictatorship is going to end in Uruguay.

Before the conclusion of the demonstration in front of the embassy, which remained closed and had a policeman on guard, the demonstrators sang the Argentine and Uruguayan anthems.

Slogans of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), the Uruguayan Broad Front, the National Convention of Workers (CNT), and hand-painted pictures of Ernesto Che Guevara could be observed among the placards.

PARAGUAYAN EXILE GROUP DEMANDS DEMOCRACY

PY271610 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0311 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (TELAM) -- Basilio Gonzales Hermosillas, the president of the Paraguayan Workers Central in Exile, today denounced the persistent and serious human rights violations in his country. He demanded that the political exiles be allowed to return, that repressive legislation be repealed, and that the unions be allowed to return to a normal, democratic status.

He also charged that the construction of the binational Yacyreta dam will permit new attacks against the Paraguayan workers, because union rights, especially collective contracts and the right to meet, are not in force in his country.

The leader made these statements just after visiting Cesar Jaroslavsky, the president of the Radical Civic Union bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, with a delegation of exiled Paraguayan union members.

The Paraguyan Workers Central in Exile has invited the Radical bloc to the ceremony that will take place on Sunday at noon at the Trevisana Club, located in the metropolitan neighborhood of Floresta, to celebrate International Workers Day.

Paraguayan political leaders have also promised that they will be in attendance, making a special trip to this capital. A delegation of the Paraguayan Authentic Colorado Movement, a dissident faction of dictator Alfredo Stroessner's party, headed by youth leader Marko Milciades Melgarejo, will also participatein the ceremony.

The Workers Central in Exile maintains that democracy will return to the neighboring country after the democratization of the Colorado Party (government party).

During their meeting with Jaroslavsky, the Paraguayan leaders handed him a copy of the proclamation that the Central has released for the 1 May ceremony.

The document denounces the serious human rights violations that have occurred during Alfredo Stroessner's regime, and it also provides a list of the names of 42 political prisoners, some of whom have been imprisoned for more than 20 years.

The Central's document especially mentions the cases of journalists Alcibiades Gonzalez del Valle and Humberto Rubin, and it also recalls the massacre of campesinos in Caaguazu. The bodies of the campesinos were found recently, thanks to the report of a group of priests.

BRIEFS

DELIVERY OF FRG FRIGATE -- Bonn, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- The Sarandi frigate, the fourth and last frigate built for Argentina by the Werft Blohm Und Voss Shipyard of Hamburg, was delivered to Argentine Navy representatives today. The frigate belongs to the Meko-360 class. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1444 GMT 27 Apr 84 PY]

PETROLEUM AGREEMENT WITH BOLIVIA -- Representatives of the Argentine Government Oil Deposits [YPF] and the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] have signed an agreement for reciprocal assistance principally with the purpose of overcoming the economic and technical difficulties the two companies meet due to the economic situation in their respective countries. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 3 PY]

NEW AMBASSADOR TO URUGUAY -- Montevideo, 25 Apr (EFE) -- Former Vice President Carlos Humberto Perette today presented his credentials to Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0024 GMT 26 Apr 84 PY]

LABOR MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS -- Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (NA) -- Tonight, new Labor Minister Juan Casella announced the appointment of Francisco Miguel Mugnolo as labor and social security under secretary, replacing Enrique Rabinovitz. He also announced that Roberto Bigatti will serve as labor secretary, replacing Gabriel Matzkin, and that Amilio Cappucci and Miguel Pi de la Serra have been confirmed as social security secretary and under secretary, respectively. He added that Technical and Administrative Coordination under secretary Victor Amador de Martino will retain his post. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0006 GMT 26 Apr 84 PA]

COB NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECREES 72-HOUR STOPPAGE

PY271605 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The national assembly of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has declared a 72-hour strike that will start on Monday 30 April and will end on Thursday to reject the economic package implemented by the Democratic and Popular Unity government.

The COB assembly approved the mineworkers' protest and the proposal made during the mineworkers' 20th congress held at Mina Matilde.

Other points approved during the assembly refer to the need to defend the democratic process, and the recommendation that the COB emergency economic plan be implemented.

The COB assembly has authorized the Executive Committee to adopt other measures of pressure or, if necessary, to summon a new assembly.

At the end of the assembly, Juan Lechin Oquendo, the COB executive secretary, stated that protest demonstrations should be carried out throughout the country during the 72-hour stoppage, and that the organization of the 1 May rally and march will be undertaken by the respective departmental labor federations.

Radio-TV Workers Prepare

PY281911 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 84

["Text" of communique released by the Bolivian Radio and Television Workers Confederation -- place and date not given]

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Radio and Television Workers Confederation, complying with directives of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], makes the following known:

1. In order to keep the people informed during [words indistinct] Monday, 30 April, Tuesday, 1 May, Wednesday, 2 May, and Thursday, 3 May, the following radio stations will work in a national network: Radio El Condor and Radio Continental in La Paz; Radio Bolivia, Radio El Condor, Radio Universidad, and Radio Oruro in Oruro; Radio San Rafael in Cochabamba; Radio Maritima in Santa Cruz; Radio Loyola in Sucre; Radio Indoamerica in Postosi; Radio Los Andes in Tarija; Radio Tropico in Trinidad; Radio Cobija in Cobija; and the Red Nacional de Emisoras Mineras in the mining centers.

2. The television channels, state, university, and cable television, should suspend their transmissions during the days of the strike decreed by the COB.

3. The private radio stations throughout the country which are not included in the labor union and people's radio network should suspend their broadcasts.

Basic Services To Operate

PY280340 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Labor Federation has given instructions to various sectors to work to provide basic services to people during the 72-hour strike starting next Monday.

Lloyd Aereo Boliviano Airlines will continue its scheduled international flights. The Bolivian Government Oil Deposits will supply fuel for emergency situations to transport food, and the Bolivian Central Bank will open from 0900 to 1400 tomorrow, Saturday. Lechin Oquendo said that these sectors have been authorized work.

SILES, PAZ ZAMORA REPORTEDLY THREATEN TO RESIGN

PY281304 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] President Hernan Siles Zuazo and Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora have reportedly considered the possibility of resigning from their posts as president and vice president of the Republic if the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] and other union organizations persist in their position of holding the 72-hour strike and of unleashing an indefinite general strike.

Siles Zuazo and Paz Zamora reportedly expressed this position at a meeting at Government House between UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity] leaders and some ministers of the political sector. Leaders of the parties that make up the government have stated that the meeting was of a political-union nature during which the president of the Republic made these crucial remarks.

Although the sources declined to explain the scope of these remarks, they stated that either the COB reconsider its position of holding the general strike, the bank employees lift the decision to paralyze the banking system, and the petroleum workers withdraw their demands, or the president and vice president of the Republic will make radical decisions.

Minister Denies Resignations

PY281800 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1656 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] La Paz, 28 Apr (EFE) -- Bolivian Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena today described reports about President Siles Zuazo's resignation as "press speculation."

There have been persistent rumors in official circles in La Paz today about the alleged imminent resignations of Siles Zuazo and Paz Zamora in the wake of the numerous strikes and stoppages called by the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB). During a meeting that Siles Zuazo held last night with his primary assistants and the cabinet ministers, he reportedly expressed his intention of adopting an "extreme" decision if the unions do not allow him to govern the country.

Bolivian labor organizations, which will hold a 72-hour general strike on Monday, have rejected the drastic economic package enacted by the government on 12 April and reiterated their decision to defend the democratic process that was begun 19 months ago. COB executive secretary Juan Lechin Oquendo has urged the rank and file to prevent a general indefinite strike against the government "because a change of government could seriously threaten democracy."

GOVERNMENT DISMISSES DECLARING STATE OF SIEGE

PY280310 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0007 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 27 Apr (EFE) -- The Bolivian Government dismisses the possibility of decreeing a state of siege in the next few days in the wake of the 72-hour general strike called by the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata said today.

The minister said that "aside from the labor strike, total tranquillity prevails throughout the country."

However, he said that if the COB declares an indefinite general strike, the government will analyze the political situation and adopt appropriate measures.

MINISTER DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF MILITARY DEMANDS

PY280235 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Interior, Migration, and Justice Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has said that he is not aware of a document circulating in different military garrisons, reported by the newspaper EL MUNDO of Santa Cruz, demanding the replacement and trial of Army Commander General Simon Cejas Tordoya. The document was published today by the morning newspaper. It says, among other things, that the confiscated [French-supplied] weapons should not have been handed over and that the courageous attitude of the Air Force officers should be supported by demanding the return of the weapons which were handed over by the Armed Forces.

The document also demands the withdrawal of the Communist Party from the government, accusing it of causing the crisis affecting Bolivia and destroying our system. According to EL MUNDO, the document wants the replacement of the national defense minister by an officer on active duty and also includes the replacement of the under secretary of the interior. Asked his opinion about this report, Minister Federico Alvarez Plata told a Panamericana reporter:

[Begin recording] [Alvarez Plata] This is a problem under the jurisdiction of the Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces. You should go to them to get an explanation.

[Unidentified reporter] The document demands the withdrawal of the Communist Party from the government and this is why we are asking you because you are a member of the Democratic and Popular Unity.

[Alvarez Plata] I am really not aware of the military document. I would have to read it first to give an opinion. However, I would like to say that the UDP position in this regard is quite firm. It is a position supported by all UDP members. [end recording].

MINISTER CONSIDERS FRENCH WEAPONS CASE CLOSED

PY281350 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Aeronautics Minister General Antonio Arnez Camacho feels that the case of the French weapons that arrived in the country should be closed. Consulted by Radio Panamericana, Gen Arnez Camacho stated that the weapons are now where they must be, and consequently, this case should be closed.

The Aeronautics Minister added that President Hernan Siles Zuazo, in his role as captain general of the Armed Forces of the nation, will decide on the final disposition of the controversial weapons.

LECHIN ON MEETING WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

PY282110 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpts] [Passage indistinct] and the U.S. ambassador had an important meeting this morning. Lechin Oquendo made harsh remarks about the IMF policy in statements to the press.

He made the following statement about his meeting with the U.S. ambassador:

[Begin Lechin recording] It was a long meeting, and the ambassador showed his satisfaction at the opportunity for a talk with the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation], which he has wished to entertain for a long time. [Words indistinct] with great frankness.

In the first place, we criticized the attitude of the IMF, which applies an economic model imposed by the United States. We criticized it, because it seems clear to us that the IMF intends, through its measures, to increase the dependency of the Third World countries. We also pointed out to him that the IMF has been very generous in offering economic and financial cooperation to dictatorial regimes -- to General Banzer in Bolivia, to Videla in Argentina, to Uruguay, Chile, etc. -- but once democracy is restored, there is an end to the generosity it showed toward the military dictatorships, which gives the impression that it wants the return of those dictatorships, because its measures are causing the destabilization of the country.

[Unidentified reporter] What was the motive for the ambassador's visit?

[Lechin] He is somewhat concerned over the problem of the defense of democracy. The U.S. Government has stated through him that it will defend the democratic system which has come to power in Bolivia, and if there is a coup d'etat the United States will never give any economic or financial cooperation. [end recording]

These were the comments of the top COB leader, Juan Lechin Oquendo, in his report on the meeting with U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr this Saturday morning from 1030 until 1245. They discussed the U.S. Government's concern about problems of our country.

ARAB LEAGUE MISSION ARRIVES ON FRIENDSHIP VISIT

PY271725 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 Apr 84 p 5

[Excerpt] An official Arab League mission arrived at El Alto International Airport aboard the same plane that brought our foreign minister from Brasilia. The purpose of the Arab delegation's visit is to strengthen the friendship between the Arab and Bolivian Governments and peoples.

The mission that landed in La Paz at 1410 is headed by Jordanian Ambassador Habit An-Nimr and Muhammed Kallut, who are accompaned by Iraqi Ambassador Nuri Al-Ways, Sudanese Ambassador Sharif Ahmad, and Sidi (Sadmah).

The Arab visitors talked with EL DIARIO reporters in the airport VIP room, and were met by members of the Foreign Ministry and Arab residents in Bolivia.

FIGUEIREDO REJECTS TRANSITION GOVERNMENT PLAN

PY270355 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Apr 84 p 16

[Excerpt] President Figueiredo's private secretary, Colonel Luis Carlos Coutinho, yesterday denied the report that the president would agree to a transition government as a result of negotiations with opposition parties and that the only reasons he would not accept it is because of health problems. The secretary said: "The president does not accept the idea of a transition government for himself or for anyone else."

However, this is not what Deputy Joao Paganella of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] of Santa Catarina State said the day before yesterday after a meeting with the president. According to Paganella, Figueiredo considered Tancredo Neves the most "acceptable" candidate for an eventual transition government if an agreement is reached after negotiations with opposition parties. Paganella also noted that Figueiredo praised the Minas Gerais governor, saying that he is the most trustworthy individual to start a dialogue between the government and the opposition.

However, the PDS congressmen who met with the president the day before yesterday said that Figueiredo admitted the idea of a 2-year transition government and that even the government amendment could be changed if Congress decided to do so. However, the private secretary quoted the president as saying that a "transition is an extension of the government and I am, myself, against it."

NEVES SAYS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY 'POSSIBILITY'

PY271505 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Apr 84 p 16

[Report from Brasilia]

[Excerpt] Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves yesterday said that his name has never been considered for the presidential race. Commenting on reports to this effect, he said that his running as a candidate is "simply a possibility." According to Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro, the inclusion of Tancredo Neves in the "presidential race" is an attempt to divide the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party].

During a meeting yesterday at the office of PMBD Deputy Walter Guimaraes from Parana, Tancredo rejected the accusations of being a "traitor," made by some factions of his party and by other opposition parties after a speech in which he condemned extreme positions and defended negotiation. "When somebody talks about negotiation, everybody thinks about indirect elections, but to the PMDB the term negotiation means direct elections."

On Transition, New Dialogue

PY280122 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Recife -- Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves today said that a transition government would allow the people to come close to the direct balloting system. Although he admitted that the idea could not be considered from the standpoint of principles and doctrine, he said that it should not be ruled out in the current crisis.

The Minas Gerais governor remarked that the impact of the campaign in favor of the direct balloting system is much stronger than it would appear to be at first sight.

Tancredo Neves pointed out that the country took a significant step forward after the vote on the Dante de Oliveira amendment, because now there is a dialogue in Brasilia and, also, considerable efforts have been made in search for an understanding.

GUIMARAES SAYS NO TO TALKS ON FORM OF ELECTIONS

PY271508 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Apr 84 p 16

[Excerpts] Brasilia -- After the support yesterday of nearly all of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] bloc in the Chamber of Deputies for the manifesto endorsing the continuity of a nationwide campaign for direct elections, the PMDB president, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, said his stand on the presidential succession is a winning one, since it only allows negotiations provided that the popular vote is reestablished.

Asked if Tancredo Neves' stand would not depart from that of most party members, since Neves admits the possibility of contending in the Electoral College if there is no other choice, Guimaraes replied that he had no grounds to believe in such a deviation by the Minas Gerais politician. "When I stayed at the Hotel Nacional in Brasilia, I was embraced by Governor Tancredo Neves, and he made statements on my stand which I do not wish to repeat. But I can tell you for sure that they were in full support of and in solidarity with my own stand," Ulysses Guimaraes said. Furthermore, Guimaraes said that he will not accept discussing any succession formula which does not contemplate direct elections. He rejected the thesis that, through an understanding, a compromise could be reached on a transition government elected by Congress. "My stand is the one that I voiced in the chamber on Tuesday: I advocate direct elections and that is it," Guimaraes added.

PDT [Democratic Worker's Party] President Doutel de Andrade yesterday promised that his party will not endorse any agreement on an indirect [elected by Congress] transition government or an indirect reelection of General Figueiredo for 2 more years. According to De Andrade, the PDT only has one stand: direct elections for choosing the successor of the incumbent.

POLICE BREAK UP STUDENT MARCH, ARREST 6

PY280145 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Brasilia -- Thirteen children, ranging from 10 to 14 years of age, were admitted to the President Medici Hospital this afternoon to receive treatment for tear gas intoxication from grenades thrown at their school by policemen who were pursuing Brasilia university students. The university students were staging a march. The university campus was invaded by 200 armed soldiers with dogs. The security forces arrested 6 students, among them the president of the National Student Union, and seized the film of the reporters who were covering the march.

DEL VALLE ON BEAGLE, DIALOGUE WITH OPPOSITION

PY271600 Paris AFP in Spanish 0414 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Montevideo, 26 Apr (AFP) -- Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today stated in Montevideo that Chile and Argentina will reach an agreement to extend the period of time for negotiations on the Beagle Channel conflict. Del Valle and his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo, are participating here in the second meeting of the ALADI council of ministers. The Chilean minister stated: We will try to reach an agreement (in Montevideo) to keep our delegations in Rome, the city where negotiations are being carried out under papal mediation.

The Chilean foreign minister added that President Augusto Pinochet will remain in power until 1989, although he pointed out that the ban on political parties might be lifted. I am positively certain that they will be functioning this year, Del Valle stated, referring to a bill to that effect, recently studied by the government.

The Chilean foreign minister said that the Marxists are continuously trying to obstruct the democratization process, and denied that the Chilean Government is reluctant to hold talks with the opposition. They are the ones who do not want to talk and they turn down the calls by our president that the process be carried out calmly and peacefully, the foreign minister concluded.

NEW ECONOMY MINISTER OUTLINES POLICY, TARGETS

PY272100 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1217 GMT 27 Apr 84

[By Senen Conejeros]

[Text] Santiago, 27 Apr (EFE) -- Modesto Collado, the recently appointed economy minister, has outlined the general guidelines of the policy which he will adopt and which foresees a 5-percent annual growth rate for the next 3 years.

A former secretary of housing in the government of General Augusto Pinochet, Collado previously held the post of economy minister during the term of Christian Democratic Party leader Eduardo Frei (1964-70). Unlike former economy ministers, Collado has been granted full powers to handle his sector, as had been the case until the arrival of the economists of the Chicago school, who placed the economic policy in the hands of the finance minister during the last decade.

After outlining his projects as head of the Economy Ministry, Collado established the targets to be attained over a 3-year period, particularly the recovery of the growth rate, which registered minus 14.3 percent in 1982 and minus 1 percent in 1983. According to the minister, a 5-percent annual growth rate will result in the attainment of the 15-percent growth target in 1986.

Collado believes that Chile has several comparative advantages that will help it overcome its crisis. His formula is based on the need "to be optimistic, even though this may be a difficult time."

The minister clearly stated: "I do not think the current crisis will be solved for 3 years." Therefore, his plans, which have been approved by the president, are in 3-year program increments.

The formula of Minister Collado deals primarily with tariffs and foreign trade, "because the promotion of exports and imports will be one of the main foundations of the new program, so that our foreign trade may grow."

Speaking to the National Chamber of Commerce, Collado said that we can be sure that "the government is not planning to impose any kind of foreign trade restrictions." A supporter of the current tariff policy, Collado voiced his disagreement with the idea of "adding surcharges to tariffs and thus rendering them indefinite. Much to the contrary, surcharges will be applied only to counter improper foreign policies and only for a limited period."

Concerning the 5-percent annual growth rate, Collado also said that, taking into account the population growth, it is not unrealistic to expect that the growth rate will surpass 18 percent during the next 3 years.

DIRECTOR OF OPPOSITION MAGAZINE RELEASED ON BAIL

PY280240 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0201 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Santiago, 27 Apr (EFE) -- A Chilean appellate court today confirmed the release on bail of Juan Pablo Cardenas, director of the opposition magazine ANALISIS, who has been in jail since 10 April. Cardenas was detained by police agents on 10 April shortly after copies of ANALISIS were confiscated by police from the newsstands. Cardenas was charged with violating the state Internal Security Law because of an editorial he signed in the 10 April issue of ANALISIS. Last Wednesday, Judge Raquel Campusano granted Cardenas' release on a 50,000 peso bail ($500), but conditioned his release on the approval of the appellate court.

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE STRENGTH OF CARABINEROS

PY280155 Paris AFP in Spanish 0015 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 27 Apr (AFP) -- Chilean President Augusto Pinochet today announced that he will increase Carabineros personnel and purchase modern equipment to efficiently counter subversive actions.

The head of state said that over the past few months, terrorists have stepped up subversive actions by killing Carabineros, destroying private and public property, causing blackouts throughout various regions, and carrying out attacks and kidnappings. During a ceremony to commemorate the 57th anniversary of the Carabineros Militarized Police, General Pinochet said that this situation compels the government to adopt all kinds of measures to protect the lives and tranquillity of the people.

Pinochet announced that he has instructed the corresponding authorities to purchase as soon as possible modern equipment to fight terrorism. He added that it is indispensable to have a set of legal means that will enable fast prosecutions and the enactment of adequate rules with the forcefulness required by this social scourge. He said that the government has studied the antisubversive draft law to stop this scourge, which is supported by agents trained abroad.

BRIEFS

LA TERCERA NEWSPAPER DIRECTOR -- Sources at the newspaper LA TERCERA today disclosed that Alberto Guerrero Espinoza, who has held the post of director of the newspaper for 10 years, has been dismissed from this post and replaced by Ivan Cienfuegos. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2211 GMT 19 Apr 84 PY]

ARMY PURSUING GUERRILLAS IN HUILA DEPARTMENT

PA271245 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] In the past few hours the Army has conducted widespread land and air operations in the Garzon area, combing the area for a mixed April 19 Movement, M-19, FARC, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, column that tried to attack Garzon, the second largest city in Huila Department.

Military spokesmen told Supernews that after last night's clash, in which several guerrillas and two soldiers were killed, the Army intensified its operations with reinforcements from Florencia Operational Command No 12, the 9th Brigade in Neiva, and the Magdalena Battalion.

It was also reported that the mixed M-19-FARC commando led by Gustavo Arias Londono, alias "Boris," and Luz Angel, a representative of the FARC's 3d Front, is in the mountains near Guadalupe, where the Army is in control. The guerrilla commando that tried to occupy Garzon includes 120 men, according to military spokesmen.

FARC, M-19 WOUND SEVEN POLICEMEN IN ATTACKS

PA282206 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose del Guaviare -- Four policemen were seriously wounded during an attack by guerrillas early this morning at Miraflores, on the banks of the Guaviare River, authorities have reported.

The attack was carried out by a 150-man column of the 1st Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, which occupied the village for 1 hour. After setting fire to the TELECOM [National Enterprise for Telecommunications] installations and an Agrarian Bank branch, the guerrillas dynamited the police post, wounding the policemen who were resisting the attack. Authorities disclosed the name of only one of the four wounded policemen. He is Jose Abel Moreno Rivas. Commanders of the 7th Brigade have ordered a flanking operation in order to establish contact with the main body of guerrillas, who entered the jungle after they perpetrated the attack.

In addition, it has been reported that at least three policemen were wounded while confronting an M-19 [19 April Movement] group that occupied a railroad train at a place known as La Caro, north of Bogota. The train, which came from Bogota, was headed toward the village of Barbosa, the first stop on its route to the Atlantic coast, authorities have reported.

The train was boarded by the guerrillas at one of its stops. The subversives then hid themselves in the train's interior. They later emerged and forced the engineer to stop the train so they could harangue the passengers on topics related to the first anniversary of the death of guerrilla leader Jaime Bateman Cayon.

A group of railroad policemen resisted, and as a result some of them were seriously wounded, police reported.

ABC COLOR EMPLOYEES SEEK COURT INJUNCTION

PY270015 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] More than 100 employees and journalists of the closed newspaper ABC COLOR have filed a petition seeking a court injunction against the Interior Ministry. The employees of the morning newspaper, represented by lawyers Alejandro Ladalardo and Pedro Dario Portillo, have requested that the Interior Ministry rule on the period during which the newspaper will remain closed.

The petition, filed with the lower labor court, says, among other things: "That Article 1 of Resolution 227 of the Interior Ministry, which decrees the suspension of the printing and distribution of the newspaper ABC COLOR for an indefinite period, has obviously created uncertainty and insecurity in the socioeconomic future of our clients (workers), because their source of income has been closed, and because the family life of more than 300 workers of the newspaper ABC COLOR, of the persons in charge of newspaper delivery in the capital and in rural towns, and of 1,000 humble paper boys has been disrupted."

"That the failure of the Interior Ministry to establish the period during which the newspaper will remain closed is an arbitrary violation of workers' rights and guarantees, which are protected by legislation. The suspension of work for an indefinite period prevents the exercise of the right to have a paid job, thus restricting almost all other essential rights, which can be exercised only with proper economic support. For example: the right to life, to the fulfilment of one's own personality; the right to care for one's own health, to make use of transportation facilities, to acquire an education, to have access to the courts; the right to privacy, to a family life; the right of ownership, and so forth."

The petition also states that: "The lack of economic support leads to subservience or to a state of dependence on others, which is incompatible with human dignity (Article 104 of the Constitution), and which also violates the principle of security and the right to security, a right that must be preserved by the state." The petition adds: "The decision to close the newspaper ABC COLOR for an indefinite period is unfair and illegal. Our clients and their fellow workers have stoically endured the closure of their source of income for 1 month."

BRIEFS

JOINT COMMISSION WITH PERU -- According to sources in the Industry and Commerce Ministry, the creation of the Peruvian-Paraguayan Joint Commission was announced in Lima during the meeting Minister Delfin Ugarte Centurion held with his Peruvian counterpart. During the meeting, the two ministers analyzed issues related to bilateral commercial and economic relations. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Apr 84 p 11 PY]

NEW BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR -- The Paraguayan Government has approved the appointment of Army General Mario de Melo Mato as the new Brazilian ambassador to Paraguay to replace General Fernando Belfort Bethlem. [Summary] [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Apr 84 p 9 PY]

NEW CHILEAN AMBASSADOR -- The new Chilean ambassador to Paraguay, Major General Hector Manuel Orozco Sepulveda, yesterday presented his credentials to President Alfredo Stroessner. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 31 Mar 84 p 7 PY]

FERREIRA ALDUNATE MAY STEP DOWN AS CANDIDATE

PY271755 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Excerpt] It has been learned that the National [Blanco] Party might desist from presenting Wilson Ferreira Aldunate as its presidential candidate, so that the national elections may be carried out free of proscribed persons or parties. This was learned in Buenos Aires at noon today. (Carlos Mereles), special correspondent for El Espectador, Radio Sport, and Cadena de Oro, reports from Buenos Aires:

[Begin relay] The National Party is willing to give up its current candidate to the presidency in order to achieve full democracy. This was just revealed at an informal meeting journalists held with Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, the proscribed leader of the National Party. As a consequence, it is quite possible that the current party slate, headed by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, will be canceled. [end relay]

BLANCO PARTY TO LAUNCH 'MOBILIZATION PLAN'

PY270405 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Excerpts] During a meeting held in Buenos Aires, the Blanco [National] Party executive board unanimously approved a great national plan for mobilization of the people. The proposal will immediately be submitted for consideration to the other parties. The mechanism for implementation of the plan will be designed during the session that the board will hold in this capital next Monday. This is the report filed by our correspondent in Buenos Aires:

[Begin relay] During a meeting held here in Buenos Aires, the Blanco Party executive board approved a great national plan for mobilization of the people, and formulated concrete solutions that will immediately be submitted for consideration to all parties and to the general public. This information, which was released by Radio Carve at noon today, was conveyed through a short communique released after a meeting that lasted more than 2 hours. The meeting was presided over by Professor Juan Pivel Devoto and was attended by Wilson Ferreira Aldunate and Carlos Julio Pereyra, the members of the Blanco Party ticket designated in 1983. The meeting was also attended by Guillermo Garcia Costa, the president of the party convention.

The Blanco Party will submit the national plan for mobilization of the people for consideration to the Colorado Party, the Civic Union, and the Broad Front during a meeting that will take place in Montevideo next week. Even without concurrence from the other parties, the Blanco Party will unilaterally sponsor a nationwide mobilization of the people. According to reports that were previously released by Radio Carve, the objective of the mobilization will be the lifting of the institutional acts and the reaffirmation of the validity of the 1967 Constitution. Pursuant to these objectives, the necessary measures will be adopted. Most of the party leaders who attended the meeting in Buenos Aires made only brief remarks on the issue because, they said, it is necessary to await the implementation of the measures, which some members called historic and very important.

After the meeting, all the Blanco Party members went to the Radical Civic Union headquarters, where they were received by the national executive committee of the party led by President Raul Alfonsin. Thus, in a fraternal meeting, the politicians of the two countries exchanged views on the current situation prevailing in the Southern Zone. [end relay]

NICARAGUAN STATE COUNCIL DELEGATION ARRIVES

PA261537 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico -- A Nicaraguan State Council delegation led by Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez arrived in Mexico City yesterday. During the visit the delegation will meet with Mexican Senate representatives, government officials, and Mexican politicians. The delegation includes Deputy Commander Rafael Solis, Domingo Sanchez, and Angela Rosa Acevedo. They were received at the international airport by Mexican Senator (Miguel Gonzalez Avelar).

The Nicaraguan State Council members are in Mexico to explain the progress of Nicaragua's electoral process, which will culminate on 4 November with the election of a president and vice president of the Republic and members of a constituent assembly. The Nicaraguan parliamentarians could request logistical support from Mexico in the 4 November elections.

Nunez on 'Reagan's War'

PA271917 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico -- Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the State Council, today forcefully accused the Reagan administration of waging a war of attrition against Nicaragua, to which it plans to deal a final blow in the next few months.

During an event at the Mexican Congress, Nunez stressed that the Government of National Reconstruction and the Sandinist revolution enjoy popular support, which guarantees the defeat of the aggressive U.S. plans. He stressed that, in view of this situation, we Nicaraguans have no choice but to take up the challenge of defending the revolution with weapons in hand.

Meeting With Officials

PA280110 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Commanders of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez and Henry Ruiz, members of the FSLN National Directorate, and Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto yesterday met with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor to analyze the Central American situation and the U.S. aggression against Nicaragua.

State Council President Nunez Tellez, who is heading a Nicaraguan legislative delegation visiting Mexico, held a lengthy meeting with Senator (Miguel Gonzalez Avelar) and Deputy (Luis Dranton Rodriguez) of the Mexican Senate and Chamber of Deputies foreign committees. Commander Nunez Tellez told the Mexican legislators that the FSLN will hold elections despite the opposition sectors' provocations to prevent the electoral process. The Mexican legislators recognized the Sandinist leaders' efforts to establish a legal framework in which to carry out the electoral process.

Nunez on U.S. Aggression

PA281537 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] The president of the State Council, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, has said in Mexico that Nicaragua is suffering from the greatest aggression since 1980 and maintained that it is a direct, harmful blow to the Contadora Group's efforts.

Commander Nunez is heading a delegation visiting Mexico in answer to an invitation which was extended by the Mexican Congress. The delegation also includes the vice president of the State Council, Domingo Sanchez; its secretary, Deputy Commander Rafael Solis; and Angela Posa Acevedo.

Concerning the accusation filed against the United States at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Commander Carlos Nunez said he hoped they would find the nature of the U.S. actions against Nicaragua illegal. Nunez added that the most important task facing the Sandinist revolution is defeating the invasion by the counterrevolutionaries led by the CIA. In this respect, he noted that the nation's resources should be primarily devoted to its defense.

Nunez on U.S. Intervention

PA281958 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Nicaragua will exhaust every channel, means, and path for negotiation in order to avoid a war in Central America, but it will continue to strengthen its defenses because it has not discarded the possibility that the United States might stage an intervention, Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez has asserted.

Nunez, president of the State Council and currently visiting in Mexico, reiterated the Nicaraguan decision to bolster every effort to achieve peace in the area during a working meeting with the Foreign Relations Committee of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. He added that the chances of a direct U.S. military intervention are increasing because there are no other options for the Reagan administration. He also said that certain Honduran military sectors want to put an end to the revolution and engage in an adventure against Nicaragua in order to present the United States with a de facto situation.

COSTA RICA SIGNS INTERPARLIAMENTARY PACT

FL271940 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1735 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico and Costa Rica have agreed to promote Latin American integration, strengthen international economic organizations such as SELA and ALADI, and give total support to the Contadora Group and its pacification activities. This was announced in a joint communique at the conclusion of the first interparliamentary meeting between the two countries, where it was stated that a proposal will be made to the Latin America Parliament to call an extraordinary meeting to deal with the world economic crisis and its effects on the region.

The communique added that in order to contain protectionism, renew the financial flows, reduce the cost of new financing, and alleviate the service charge on accumulated debt, it is necessary to reform the scheme of relations on a worldwide scale.

Regarding bilateral relations, the communique reiterated that they are adequate but that they should be expanded in the fields of cooperation, education, culture, science, and technology. Trade relations should be intensified with a spirit of regional integration that respects the autonomy of each state. Also recognized in the communique were Mexico and Costa Rica's efforts in matters of energy cooperation, through the San Jose Agreement, as well as their efforts in fishing.

The agreement was signed for Mexico by Senators Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco Garrido, Alfonso Zagbe Sanen, and Andres Valdivia Aguilar, and for Costa Rica by Jorge Luis Villanueva Badilla, Mari Sanchez Valverde, Hernan Garron Salazar, and Jose Bolanos Quezada.

AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT

FL280211 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2015 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Peace in Central America is the principal objective of the Mexican Government's foreign policy, President Miguel de la Madrid asserted to the new Nicaraguan ambassador, Edmundo Jarquin Calderon. After presenting his credentials to the president of the Republic, Jarquin Calderon told members of the Mexican media that he thanked the Mexican chief executive for his statement because, he stressed, peace is one of the great Central American reserves for finding solutions to the serious crisis.

The new ambassador spoke about U.S. aggression against his country, an undeclared and open war which he described as gigantic and as never before seen by any country in Latin America. He said the terrorists' actions, such as the mining of Nicaraguan waters, have been received by the world with an energetic protest of concern, since it is felt that this is a serious precedent, not because of direct implications in the case of the Nicaraguan people, but because such actions are a violation of international law.

The president of the Republic also received the credentials of the ambassadors from Cuba, Agustin Fernandez de Cossio, from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Jindrich Tucek, from Portugal, Jose Laco Treichler, and from the Philippines, Pablo A. Araque. They all conveyed their respective governments' support for Mexico's diplomatic efforts in the Contadora Group which are aimed at achieving a political, peaceful, negotiated solution to the serious problems in Central America.

Cuban Ambassador Fernandez de Cossio said his government had long ago made known its support of the Contadora Group's efforts for peace in Central America, and that the United States participate in that peace. He stressed that the Central American peoples' problems are the result of their economic, political, and social situation, as outlined in the Contadora proposals, and that to speak of an East-West conflict in the region is to bow to the U.S. vision of black and white, which stamps ideologies on all problems in the world. Cuba insists it favors a negotiated, honorable, political solution to all problems in the area, which is why it supports Contadora.

Czechoslovak Ambassador Tucek said that Mexican diplomacy is traversing one of the brightest moments of its long revolutionary history. He mentioned the Mexican proposals for general and complete disarmament, which are of particular importance for his country now that missiles have been deployed in Western Europe, and the efforts Mexico is making to find a peaceful solution in Central America. Peace is the solution to the grave problems affecting the world, he said and wished Mexico success in its efforts with Contadora to find a way which will make it possible for the Central American peoples to follow the path of self-determination.

Portuguese Ambassador Treichler noted that Mexico is playing an outstanding and worthy role in the solution of the Central American problems, which is to respect the peoples' rights to have the system they wish to have without any type of intervention.

Philippine Ambassador Araque conveyed greetings and congratulations from President Ferdinando Marcos to President Miguel de la Madrid for the Mexican peace initiatives in Central America and for the positive results of his recent trip to several Latin American countries. He said that after the parliamentary elections are held in his country in the first part of May, it is expected that his country will experience the necessary tranquillity to develop its economy, and that possibly measures similar to those of the Mexican Government will be adopted to overcome the country's problems.

INDIAN PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT, INVITES DE LA MADRID

FL261728 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2110 GMT 25 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 25 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid will travel to India this year at the invitation of his Indian counterpart, Giani Zail Singh, who today ended an official 3-day visit here.

Among the results of the Indian leader's visit are the renewal of a 1975 economic cooperation agreement and the extention until 1985 of scientific and cultural education exchanges.

During his stay in the Mexican capital Zail Singh held two rounds of talks with the Mexican president, who has occupied his post since December 1982.

BRIEFS

JAPAN JOINT GOODS PRODUCTION -- Yesterday the Mexican Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Secretariat, SEMIP, reported that Mexico will begin producing capital goods, in a joint operation with Japan, in the first months of next year. These goods are vital for the oil, steel, petrochemical, and energy industries. The plant, which will manufacture parts weighing as much as 110,000 kg, has almost been completed in Michoacan. [Summary] [Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 2 Apr 84 p 10 PA]

INCREASED DEEP OIL EXPLORATIONS -- Merida, Mexico, 13 APR (NOTIMEX) -- Oil specialist Luis Alberto Angeles today said that the parastatal agency Mexican Petroleum will increase its explorations at depths greater than 6,000 meters in order to increase its known oil reserves. [Excerpt] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0236 GMT 14 Apr 84 FL]

CONTADORA, C.A. MINISTERS TO MEET IN PANAMA

PA281450 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1133 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- Nine foreign affairs ministers will meet beginning Monday in Panama to discuss the implementation of a broad peace plan for strife-torn Central America, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat announced last night. The foreign ministers of the Contadora Group -- made up of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, and Panama -- will meet Sunday in the Panamanian capital to hear the reports prepared by the various special commissions on how to implement the peace plan, the secretariat announced.

The ministers will meet on Monday with their five Central American counterparts, according to the announcement made to newsmen by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. Gutierrez did not say how long the meeting would last. The special military, political, and economic commissions of the Contadora Group met during the week in Panama.

Diplomatic sources in the region have noted that the peace plan drafted by the Contadora Group, whose draft was approved by the nine ministers in January, is doomed to fail if it does not receive the active support of the United States.

BELIZE

ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS TO BE TIGHTENED

FL272308 Bridgetown CANA in English 1939 GMT 27 Apr 84

[By Norris Hall]

[Text] Belize City, April 27 (CANA) -- Belize has announced it will more strictly enforce its immigration regulations, with a view to curbing crime and other socio-economic ill effects linked to the inflow of refugees and illegal aliens here. Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs Vernon Courtenay in a radio broadcast last night announced that government will "now draw the line". Immigrants must now comply "with the letter of the immigration of laws of Belize," he declared.

Government, he said, would grant amnesty to all those aliens residing in Belize up to May 1, 1984. The amnesty will not apply or be extended to immigrants who have criminal records in Belize. The condition of pardon for aliens to regularize their resident status in Belize will extend for 90 days from May 2 to July 31 during which time all aliens must register with the immigration authorities, Courtenay said.

Police statistics here indicate that since the Salvadoran civil war and other conflicts in the region and the resultant flow of refugees and illegal aliens into Belize, there has been a considerable increase in the number of brutal murders and robberies. A recent survey by the United Nations Refugee Committee said there were about 4,600 Salvadoran refugees here. But other official statistics put the number of "illegal squatters" at about 12,000, mainly from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

The Belize population in 1981 totalled 148,000. In addition to crimes and robbery and murder police say a number of persons have disappeared without trace in recent times and aliens have been found to be involved in sophisticated schemes for the storage and export of marijuana.

The move by the government to tighten up on illegal immigration is a part of a national crusade against crime and according to the minister of home and foreign affairs "the new and strange tendencies which aliens import into Belize."

It will now be more difficult for foreigners to qualify for residency in Belize. It is no longer sufficient that an applicant proves that he has lived here for five years and that he is of full age and of sound mind and that he has been of good character and has not been convicted of a crime and is capable of maintaining himself. The new policy announced by Courtenay yesterday is that the applicant must satisfy the government authorities that he understands and accepts the Belizean way of life and that he has been able to live in harmony with the people of Belize in some Belizean community in such a way that he is Belizean in substance and outlook. Apart from the government's refugee resettlement project in the Valley of Peace, most immigrants live in scattered communities in the dense interior of Belize.

COSTA RICA

MONGE VISITS PANAMA, DISCUSSES CONTADORA

Visit Announced

PA271602 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] President Luis Alberto Monge, who has been invited by an organization in Panama -- the Human Rights Committee of [words indistinct] District 23 -- will leave at 0900 on Sunday for that neighboring country, it has been announced at the Presidential House. The president is scheduled to return in the afternoon. President Monge will receive a prize from this organization for his civic and political activities in the field of human rights. His brave decision as president of the Republic of Costa Rica to return this democratic Central American nation's embassy to Jerusalem is one that will remain in the annals of justice, the invitation extended to the president states.

The note adds that Costa Rica is also the Latin American nation which has accorded the most importance to human rights, developing its concept, understanding, and enforcement at academic levels to achieve peace and understanding among Central American and Latin American countries. Your country has granted refuge to hundreds of Cuban refugees. It has acted similarly in the painful case of the Central American refugees, as hundreds of refugees from Nicaragua have arrived in your territory. The Costa Rican Government and people have responded with humane solidarity, the note of invitation concludes.

Conditions Contadora Support

PA290332 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1952 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 28 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has announced that if the Contadora Group supports Nicaragua's attitude of rejecting disarmament and the establishment of a democracy "in accordance with the Western concept," Costa Rica could withdraw its support for the group. President Luis Alberto Monge made this comment when asked about the possible outcome of the next meeting of the Contadora Group formed by Venezuela, Panama, Colombia, and Mexico to be held on Monday in Panama City. Monge supported the comment of his foreign minister, Carlos Jose Gutierrez, who said that Nicaragua is obstructing and making more difficult the search for peace in Central America.

At a meeting held 2 days ago among the foreign ministers of Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador, it was learned that Nicaragua has decided to continue arming itself and that it will not accept any limitations because "its problems are with the United States and not with its neighbors; therefore, it must prepare to defend itself against a world power." In the beginning the Sandinists had expressed their approval of a series of measures such as arms control and the holding of democratic elections; however, "their position has changed," the foreign ministers said.

The Costa Rican president was surprised that Nicaragua had initially accepted the suggestions "when these are completely against the philosophy practiced by the Nicaraguan Government."

On 30 April the foreign ministers of the four Contadora Group countries and those of the Central American countries will meet in Panama City to analyze the situation of the area. President Monge said, "I don't know what kind of reaction the Contadora foreign ministers will have when faced with the Nicaraguan position. If they maintain their stance for democracy and demilitarization, we will continue to support the organization; but if Contadora gives in with regard to the defense of democracy, we will not be able to continue offering out support."

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez officially requested to the International Court of Justice at The Hague that it take the diplomatic efforts being made by Contadora into consideration when making a decision regarding the case presented by Nicaragua against the United States. Gutierrez believes that the work of the Contadora Group has advanced in a positive manner in the search for a solution, not only from the military viewpoint, but in its political, social, and economic aspects at home and abroad.

He added that "Costa Rica has a special interest in the peaceful resolution of the problems that are affecting this area of the world" and that these observations cannot be considered as an intervention in this case.

Gutierrez added that the Costa Rican opinion is that any measure that The Hague court may adopt outside the context of the political and military situation of the Central American region "could become a distorting factor in the difficult balance being sought by the Contadora Group within a broader framework of solutions."

Denies Conditioning Support

PA300212 Paris AFP in Spanish 0005 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Panama City, 30 Apr (AFP) -- Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge denied here today that his government has threatened to withdraw its support for the Contadora Group if it gives in to Nicaraguan pressure to forgo commitments to control the arms buildup in the area. Monge said that although "Nicaragua is the main obstacle," Costa Rica will do everything possible to overcome the differences.

Monge denied that the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) operates from Costa Rica. He said that these accusations are part of a well-planned campaign to discredit his country. Monge said that he will ask the Contadora Group to send observers to the Costa Rican border with Nicaragua to confirm that the ARDE guerrillas led by Eden Pastora do not operate from Costa Rica. He condemned the mining of Nicaraguan ports. However, he justified the presence of U.S. military advisers in the area "because Cuban and Soviet military advisers also operate in the area."

MINISTER GUTIERREZ COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY

Limits of Neutrality

PA272139 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 22 Apr 84 p 4-A

[Report by Elberth Duran Hidalgo]

[Excerpts] Costa Rica cannot lead an anticommunist cause in Central America and fight the Sandinists for the sake of this cause because that would betray the historical principles that constitute the foundation of Costa Rica's foreign policy. This is how Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez views his role as head of that ministry after 3 months and 23 days in office.

Gutierrez told LA NACION that the maingoals of the Foreign Ministry are to remove Costa Rica from the conflicts that the region is experiencing and to preserve social peace at home. He believes that it would be irresponsible for Costa Rica to assume an aggressive military role, first, because there are no funds, and second, because no one can guarantee that "U.S. and Venezuelan citizens will come here to get killed in the event of an invasion because the main responsibility of defending Costa Rica is ours," he said.

In response to criticism of him in the sense that his work at the front of the ministry has been "timid," Gutierrez said that those criticisms come from two sources. From those who in "good faith" wonder how the country will overcome the problems of neutrality and from the opposition who fight the policies for "political reasons." "We are not afraid of defending our sovereignty even if we must take up arms to do so," the foreign minister said. "But to go on to incite provocations would be choosing an option that we lack the capacity to defend."

On the handling of the crisis in relations with Nicaragua, particularly after the acts of violation of Costa Rican territory and the armed attacks against rural police in Conventillos last February, Gutierrez said that there are three alternatives: To confront the Sandinists openly and with all the means within our reach; to ally with them; or the one that he believes is the right one, to remain neutral.

Asked what he believes to be the tolerable limits of Costa Rica's pacifist policy, Gutierrez cited a military aggression and the disintegration of the Contadora Group formed last year by Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama. "I would be worried if no one protested. However, the Sandinists are constantly protesting because we are allegedly cooperating with those who oppose them and those who oppose the Sandinists in turn protest because they believe that we are bowing to the game of the leaders of the Nicaraguan Government."

Policy Goal, Contadora

PA271928 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Carlos Jose Gutierrez, the Costa Rican foreign minister, has said that our country's foreign policy is aimed at achieving peace in Central America. If this is not possible, he said, at least we should try to keep Costa Rica removed from Central American military confrontations. He said that the Costa Rican foreign policy toward peace should not be based on defects or inconsistencies. He said that he has followed President Monge's instructions at all times.

The foreign minister made these declarations answering criticism of the government in the past few days. He said that the government must obey the proclamation of neutrality. Within that context, it should follow that policy even if it does not please certain sectors. A foreign policy expert has said that one could say that all the efforts of the Contadora Group and other countries have gone to waste.

VICE PRESIDENT FAIT DEPARTS FOR HONG KONG

PA280241 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 23 Apr 84 p 6 A

[Summary] First Vice President Alberto Fait will leave tomorrow for Hong Kong where he will meet with investors. Fait recently returned from Houston, Texas, where he met with investors interested in coming to Costa Rica.

GUARD ORDERED TO RESPOND TO ANY NICARAGUAN ATTACK

PA291417 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1331 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] Costa Rica must defend its sovereignty at any cost. Costa Rican sovereignty is something that must be maintained at any cost, sparing no effort; accordingly, civil guards have been given orders to respond with fire to any incursion from Nicaragua. This was announced by Public Security Deputy Minister Johnny Campos. A 50-mm artillery piece has already been sent to the San Juan River delta to repel any attack on our sovereignty.

U.S. JOINTLY OWNED COMPANY ATTACKED WITH GUNFIRE

PA291940 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The INCESA Standard Company was attacked this morning by unidentified persons, and the company will request an investigation to determine the reasons for the attack. Company spokesmen reported that several shots were fired from a passing vehicle in the area of La Uruca; the bullets are embedded in the company building's walls. The INCESA Standard Company was created with Costa Rican-U.S. capital and, according to company employees, they had received phone calls the day before inquiring how many guards they had and if they were Nicaraguans. Company officials will present a request at the OIJ [Judicial Investigations Organization] to ascertain the reasons for this attack.

EL SALVADOR

REACTIONS TO MAGANA VETO OF ELECTORAL LIST BILL

Parties, Politicians Cited

PA281242 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 26 Apr 84 p 32

[Text] With the veto of the legislative decree that called for elimination of the electoral lists, a bid supported by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), the final stretch is better defined for the parties participating in the runoff. Among the members of the party favoring elimination there is strong annoyance that has been publicly expressed by Deputy Gloria Salgero Gross, while the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] took advantage of the situation to publish an advertisement alluding to the "defeat" of its opponent.

Evelio Estrella meanwhile is being criticized for coming from the United States and trying to set the electoral guidelines to be followed here. The politician, a veteran of the Batista and other struggles who currently resides in Miami, is the target of the PDC's attacks.

Because the amendment to the electoral law has been vetoed, voters will have only one finger stained instead of three. This should encourage more people to vote, because no one wanted three stained fingers.

The National Conciliation Party (PCN) has publicly announced in the face of the political situation experienced in the country: support for a specific party has not been defined. Any other information is inaccurate. The PCN is discussing whether to instruct its members to support a specific party or to remain on the lookout in an attempt to acquire more seats during the elections for deputies and councilmen to be held in March 1985.

CCE President Comments

PA270430 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Report by Osiris Ramirez]

[Excerpt] Armando Rodriguez Eguizabal, president of the Central Electoral Council [CCE], has said that the Salvadoran president was not influenced by the CCE when he vetoed the reforms in the temporary electoral law. He also said that if the reforms in the temporary electoral law are once again approved by the congress they will cause enormous problems in the organization of the runoff. Asked how the CCE feels about the president's veto, Rodriguez Eguizabel said the following:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez Eguizabel] It was a decision made directly by the president. No one influenced him. No one [word indistinct] him. It was his own decision. The only thing that I can say is that we have continued working and preparing everything. We (?had an) additional plan in case the law was approved and not vetoed. Right now we are continuing the work under the existing electoral law.

[Ramirez] I imagine that the CCE is happy about the president's decision because it had been said that the voter lists are a guarantee for credibility in the elections.

[Rodriguez Eguizabel] That's right. This is my own personal analysis. The president has always said that one of his great goals and objectives is to turn over the presidency to the citizen who is elected by the people through a free, pure, and honest electoral process that will precisely guarantee the people's will.

In this sense, we have seen that nationally and internationally the 25 March elections were at no time criticized or called fraudulent. We also saw that with the existence of an electoral register. [changes thought] I want to reiterate to the Salvadoran people that when we further investigate this, we see that it was not by chance that there were intentional efforts to provoke disorder and confusion among the people.

We found that on 25 March a larger number of people voted in the places where there is tranquillity and where there are no problems and that in those places where there are conflicts, the vote dropped--not necessarily due to the register, but due to the existing conflict that we are all aware of in our country. The council believes that the best guarantee for clean elections is the electoral register and that the lists are just the expression or reflection of the register.

It is not true that a citizen is included in the electoral register just by showing his identification card. He is included in the electoral register after the copy of that identification card is checked by the CCE to see that it has not already been registered. That is an important difference that must be borne in mind. [end recording]

ARENA's Hugo Barrera

PA272203 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Interview with Hugo Barrera, vice presidential candidate of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] In the past few days there has been much talk about the reform to the temporary electoral law. It has today been officially reported that the president of the Republic has vetoed the reform. As vice-presidential candidate of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], what is your opinion?

[Barrera] I will be glad to respond. First I would like to thank you for the opportunity you offer me to express my opinion on this. We requested that the temporary electoral law be reformed because we concluded that the voter lists are inaccurate, so much so that they caused many problems to the people when they approached the polls to exercise their right and their duty to vote. Our aim was to enable all Salvadorans to vote and participate in the making of such an important decision: the choosing of the future president and vice president of the Republic.

That was the purpose of our request. We believe that the same problems that surfaced last time will repeat themselves in the runoff because the voter lists remain unchanged; they have not been improved; the bugs have not been taken out. They still are plagued by the same deficiencies and defects that were there in the first round of elections. It is understandable that this will cause some problems to the voters.

I believe this is a proper time to send a patriotic and truly Salvadoran message to all the people in the sense that the people must make a big effort and the sacrifice of going to the polls even if this might be difficult. They must persevere in their effort to cast their ballots and participate in this important event. I believe it is well worth saying right now that all Salvadorans must vote so that the results of the election will authentically reflect the will of the majority.

[Reporter] Mr Barrera, on several occasions your party, ARENA, and you yourself have reported irregularities in the first round of elections. Will you make any specific recommendations to the Electoral Council to prevent irregularities if the voter lists are used in the second round after all?

[Barrera] I think we will make the recommendations directly to the voters. The suggestion we made to the Electoral Council was to reform the temporary electoral law. It went unheeded. They have stubbornly insisted that the voter lists are all right and that it is better to retain them. I understand. They have made a big effort to attempt to justify their retention of those positions. We will make no more recommendations to them. We will make them to the voters so that they will go to the polls.

[Reporter] There has been much talk about a possible coalition with, or a declaration of support for ARENA.

As is known, the Christian Democratic Party has specifically been seeking the support of the National Conciliation Party [PCN] and other parties. We would like you to tell all Salvadorans whether ARENA has obtained the total support of any of the parties that ran against you in the first round.

[Barrera] We have met with the people of the PCN, PAISA [Salvadoran National Institutional Party], and the PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party]. We believe that there is a strong tendency to support us in our posture as a nationalist party and as a defender of the free enterprise system and individual rights. This allows us to believe that we will be supported by those parties. However, one must realize that the law does not allow formal coalitions to be formed in the runoff. I believe that all the followers of those parties will tend to vote for ARENA.

Venceremos Notes Veto

PA271953 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Alvaro Magana has decided to veto or annul the amendment to the electoral law that was recently approved in the so-called Legislative Assembly thus favoring the stand of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which had opposed the amendment. The amendment to the electoral law was proposed in the assembly by D'Aubuisson's ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and was supported by the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party, the PCN [National Conciliation Party], and the PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party]. The amendment was opposed by the Christian Democratic Party and the Central Electoral Council. The members of the Central Electoral Council had even threatened to resign their posts if Alvaro Magana did not veto this amendment to the electoral law, thus creating a serious crisis just a few days before the date of the electoral farce, 6 May.

After the amendment to the electoral law had been approved, ARENA and the PDC parties applied pressure for several days to influence Magana's decision. Finally, Alvaro Magana decided to veto or annul the amendment, thus favoring the PDC, the party that enjoys the full support of the imperialist U.S. Government. Therefore, participation by the U.S. Embassy in Alvaro Magana's decision cannot be ruled out.

COPREFA ALLEGES LINK BETWEEN FMLN, TRADE UNIONS

PA271736 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Relay report by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA]

[Excerpt] Following instructions issued by the leadership of the FMLN-FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front], the union oligarchs who head the Salvadoran Unified Trade Union Movement, MUSIGES, are planning alleged trade union activities for 1 May, Labor Day, which will end in an outbreak of violence according to confidential reports and investigations. On several occasions COPREFA [Armed Forces Press Committee] has exposed the true nature of this organization and other similar groups. Once again we must fulfill our duty to caution the various worker and trade union sectors against becoming pawns in the maneuvers of the oligarchies, whose only aim is to use them to boycott the 6 May elections. MUSIGES is an appendage of the FMLN-FDR although it denies this, and it will continue to be its instrument within El Salvador's popular movements. Terrorism is seeking to sow chaos and violence in El Salvador to obstruct the elections.

REPORTAGE ON MILITARY ACTIVITY AROUND COUNTRY

Rebels Cause Power Outages

PA271946 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] The eastern Departments of Usulutan, San Miguel, Morazan, and La Union were left without electric power Thursday morning, 26 April, in the wake of sabotages staged by FMLN sappers. Revolutionary fighters have knocked down central high tension pylons in Usulutan and San Vicente Departments over the past few hours. Meanwhile, last night, Wednesday, urban guerrilla commandos dynamited a power pylon near the Santa Maria neighborhood in San Salvador. The city suffered a blackout as a result.

Soldiers Dislodged in Morazan

PA281838 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Free and heroic Morazan is once again a territory of combat and victory. Radio Venceremos begins this broadcast by sending greetings to the units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade's northern group who have dislodged units of the Cacahuatique Battalion from their positions around the towns of Osicala and Delicias de Concepcion, Morazan Department. New U.S. weapons were recovered in this department. Reagan is stubbornly continuing to provide rifles and ammunition to our revolutionary army. With victory after victory the workers' army is continuing to crush the imperialist's attempts to turn us into a Gringo colony and is advancing toward power; power for the Salvadoran working classes.

BRAZ Inflicts Casualties

PA290306 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] We repeat the information from the Francisco Sanchez Eastern Front in Morazan Department, where the FMLN has carried out a successful operation. At 0715 on 27 April, members of the northern group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] attacked enemy positions at El Coyol hill, the turnoff to Ocicala, and the Ocicala cemetery. In addition, other units attacked enemy positions on the slopes of (La Curcucha) near Delicias de Concepcion. All these positions were defended by the Cacahuatique Battalion stationed at San Francisco Gotera. After more than 6 hours of combat, our units dislodged the enemy from all these positions, forcing the Cacahuatique Battalion to retreat to the outskirts of Ocicala. In this clash we inflicted more than 30 casualties on the enemy, including 10 dead and more than 30 wounded. The latter group included two officers. The following was taken from the Cacahuatique Battalion: six U.S.-made M-16 rifles, one M-79 grenade launcher, and abundant war supplies. In addition, the enemy was forced to deploy troops from the Morazan Battalion to reinforce the Ocicala garrison. Our forces confronted these reinforcements and inflicted more casualties on them. The operation was led by Commander Goyo.

Army Accused of Razing Homes

PA291911 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Five hundred families' homes were razed by elite battalions in the Departments of San Vicente and Usulutan.

Attention Salvadoran people: On Friday, 20 April, the dictatorship's army started an operation on the banks of the Lempa River between San Vicente and Usulutan Departments. It used three elite battalions and the 5th and 6th Infantry Brigades, supported by the enemy Air Force and artillery.

In only 7 days the battalions trained by the Yankees destroyed, completely razed, 500 pesant families' houses in the two departments. We strongly denounce the military high command and high military chiefs who unscrupulously order destruction and genocide against the peasant population in our homeland. We issue a call to international and humanitarian organizations, the national and international press, to denounce and report our people's suffering, because they are withstanding the bestial actions of an army that is trained and financed by the criminal President Ronald Reagan.

ESA, REBELS ON U.S. EMBASSY SECURITY MAN'S DEATH

ESA Blames Embassy

PA281352 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1224 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- A death squad operating in El Salvador has accused the United States of killing a ranking Salvadoran official who was in charge of security in the U.S. Embassy in this capital and has accused U.S. officials of playing up to the communists. The charge was made by the self-styled Secret Anticommunist Army (ESA), an infamous ultraright death squad, in a communique, which was found last night in a telephone booth and to which REUTER has gained access.

The note blamed the U.S. Embassy for the death of Alfredo Zapata, a former member of the National Police who became a security official at the embassy and was killed on 16 April while in his car by an unidentified man. It also suggested that the embassy ordered the death of Zapata to eliminate a source that was supplying information to the U.S. authorities on the activity of the shady death squads. The communique added that the embassy is now using Zapata's death because "it is seeking to justify a new propaganda campaign against the patriotic organizations that are waging an all-out confrontation against the communists...."

A spokesman for the embassy said that the charges by ESA "are senseless" and "absurd." A communique from the People's Liberation Forces (FPL), one of the five guerrilla organizations seeking to overthrow the government, claimed responsibility for killing Zapata 1 day after his death. It was later confirmed, however, that the FPL communique was false because it had been prepared with elements unlike those used in former notes. Embassy authorities initially attributed the death to the guerrillas, but later extreme right-wing groups were said to be responsible.

"The ESA flatly rejects any perverse connection that the U.S. Embassy makes regarding that crime committed against an honorable Salvadoran." It added that "the U.S. officials are permitting the advancement of the communist hordes on our fatherland, El Salvador."

The police arrested a man suspected of complicity in the case who, according to U.S. Embassy officials, is a former member of the National Guard. The U.S. diplomats and the groups that defend human rights claim that the death squads, who have been responsible for thousands of political killings over the past 4 years, are made up of former members of the country's security forces, including the National Guard.

Death Squad Connection Alleged

PA291515 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] In a communique issued by the death squads, the not-too-secret Secret Anticommunist Army, ESA, has admitted that military man Alfredo Zapata was a member of that criminal organization. At the time of his death Zapata was security chief at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador. The ESA communique makes it clear that Alfredo Zapata was a death squad chieftain.

Radio Venceremos has been reporting on the true identity of the leaders of these criminal squads and their modus operandi, and these reports are being confirmed with undeniable evidence. In connection with Alfredo Zapata's death we had mentioned that he had links with the squads from the days when he was a Salvadoran Army officer and chief of the criminal investigations office of the National Police Department, where he committed many crimes and tortured hundreds of Salvadorans.

The death squad communique signed by Aquiles Baires has confirmed our reports. Other FMLN reports and statements on the death squads have been fully confirmed. We have reported that D'Aubuisson, Carranza, and Lopez Nuila, among others, are the chieftains of the squads. In the case of D'Aubuisson and others, our reports have been backed by U.S. newspapers such as THE WASHINGTON POST and THE NEW YORK TIMES, which cite statements from Salvadoran military man Roberto Esteban Santibanez. We have also reported that the U.S. Embassy and the death squads work together. Now, the ESA itself identifies the security chief of the U.S. Embassy in El Salvador as a chieftain of that criminal organization.

The death squads are being directed by high-ranking Army, National Police, Treasury Police, and National Guard officers. It is in the country's barracks where Salvadorans believed to be opponents of the dictatorship are being tortured and murdered. Their bodies are either buried in clandestine cemeteries or abandoned on highways. This is known to Duarte, to Guerrero, to all the cheap and traitorous politicians. Duarte knows about this. As president of the junta he had D'Aubuisson arrested, and he had evidence on this situation we have been denouncing. But Duarte was not only an accomplice in massacres such as those in El Mozote, Morazan Department; he also publicly and shamelessly denied this genocide. The fact is that institutionalized terror and crime has been a political and military policy to halt the revolutionary unrest of the Salvadoran people.

VENCEREMOS NOTES U.S. MANEUVERS IN C.A.

PA272331 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Two U.S. Navy war vessels and patrol boats from Honduras and El Salvador began military maneuvers this Thursday, 26 April, in the Gulf of Fonseca between Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. The military maneuvers, which are called "Guardians of the Gulf," are led by the commander in chief of the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Command. According to reports, the maneuvers are aimed at training the Salvadoran and Honduran Armies to cut the alleged arms supply from Nicaragua to El Salvador. However, despite sophisticated naval detection equipment, which the United States has placed in Tiger Island in the Gulf of Fonseca, no vessel carrying weapons has ever been captured. Nor has the alleged logistics flow from Nicaragua to El Salvador been confirmed.

Three U.S. military maneuvers are currently being carried out in Central America and the Caribbean, thus increasing the U.S. military presence in the area significantly.

In Honduras, a Honduran-U.S. exercise called "Grenadier I" is being held near the Salvadoran border; in the Caribbean, in front of the Central American Atlantic coast, the "Ocean Venture-84" exercise involving some 32,000 Yankee soldiers is being held; and now, in the Gulf of Fonseca, the so-called "Guardians of the Gulf" maneuvers, which will last until 7 May, are already under way.

Commenting on this, THE WASHINGTON POST said that the statement that Nicaragua sends weapons to Salvadoran insurgents was used by the United States to justify its warmongering actions in Central America. However, the U.S. newspaper added, to date, the alleged arms shipments from Nicaragua bound for the FMLN, which have been reported by top U.S. Defense Department officials, have yet to be detected.

REBELS OCCUPY RADIO STATIONS, AIR COMMUNIQUE

Election, U.S. Hit

PA291955 San Salvador Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Communique broadcast by the People's Liberation Revolutionary Armed Forces, FARLP, during a guerrilla takeover of the Radio El Mundo studios in San Salvador on 28 April -- live or recorded]

[Text] Attention, attention: This is a radio station takeover by the People's Liberation Revolutionary Armed Forces, FARLP, military branch of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, PRTC, a member of the FMLN. With this combatant revolutionary action the PRTC wishes to speak to the heroic Salvadoran people, the Central American peoples, and the peoples of the world regarding the following events of historic importance occurring in our country.

On the occasion of International Labor Day our party sends a fraternal and revolutionary greeting to all the Salvadoran workers, especially to the laboring classes who with their vanguard the FMLN are heroically struggling to break the chains of oppression that the local bourgeoisie and imperialism have placed on them. Throughout the world workers take to the streets to celebrate this day, but in the socialist countries where the revolution has triumphed the proletariat fill the streets to recognize and reaffirm that the revolution has definitely eradicated exploitation and hunger and that achievements in the economic, social, and political fields respond historically to their interests. Meanwhile, in the countries under a capitalist system where there is exploitation of man by man, this day is one to repudiate the current social system and to demand the most basic needs of the people.

In our country the repressive escalation has reached such proportions that for the past 4 years the regime has not allowed the workers to express themselves publicly or to state their demands. The regime's efforts to crush the growing union movement are greater each day and range from legal maneuvers to abolishing the unions, threats, arrests, disappearances, and the killing of leaders.

Between 1968 and 1983 the regime murdered 42,172 workers, laborers, peasants, students, professionals, and so forth. The repression of the working class includes the imprisonment of many union leaders and members, many of whom are now missing. In the face of these facts, our party strongly condemns the ferocious repression unleashed on the workers and demands respect for the right to free unionism, a halt to repression, freedom for union leaders, solving the cases of murdered or missing companeros, and punishment for those responsible for these (?crimes).

Our party also expresses a well-deserved and just recognition of all the revolutionary companeros fallen within the framework of our just struggle and reaffirms its commitment to continue struggling to achieve a just society in which the workers will fully enjoy their rights.

The FMLN calls on all workers, especially in the laboring class, not to allow themselves to be intimidated by threats and pressures, to join their efforts, and to continue -- more strongly and heroically -- their struggle to achieve their just demands.

In the face of the development of the bourgeois electoral process, our party states that elections in El Salvador do not represent a real alternative to the people's aspirations. The electoral farce is a political and military plan of imperialism that, concerned over the unstoppable advance of our forces and the criticism expressed regarding its Central American policy, internationally as well as by the U.S. people, is attempting to form a government that, aside from being its faithful servant, will develop internationally favorable political conditions to justify an intervention on a larger scale that will include the landing of Marines in our homeland.

The elections have been a failure. While the political parties mounted the electoral farce and began fighting each other, the puppet army supported by Yankee imperialism tried to stop the FMLN forces to prevent the actions of our glorious revolutionary people's army from obstructing the elections.

The combativeness of our people's army did not allow normal elections. How can it be said that the elections were a success when more than 80 municipalities in the country's north, central, and eastern regions were unable to hold the electoral farce? How can they say that the elections were held in a peaceful atmosphere when the country has been under martial law for the past 3 years and the regime's brutal repression every day results in many murders of civilians, and the death squads carry out their killings. How could the elections have been normal if the puppet army did not have real military control? The FMLN was not going to change its political and military plans so that the regime could have a normal situation in which to hold its electoral farce. Our party believes that the elections were a political and military defeat for imperialism, the bourgeoisie, and the puppet army.

The Yankees are desperate because even the bourgeoisie is making difficult the implementation of the imperialist political and military plans. The disorder and inefficiency of the Central Electoral Council is nothing but evidence of the corruption, greed, and appetite of the contending political parities. The elections have failed, and the people have seen a cheap and poorly mounted show presented by the bourgeois parties. With the imperialist decision to implement its political and military plan, and the Army's demonstrated lack of ability, which has resulted in continual disasters, the U.S. intervention in Central America has increased.

These are facts: In the past 3 years, the FMLN has inflicted more than 16,000 casualties on the bourgeoisie's army and has recovered enough arms to equip approximately 14 battalions of 400 men each. The puppet army is maintained only because of the continuous large-scale military aid that it receives from imperialism.

At the regional level, the United States has turned Honduras into a military base. They admit in their own media that they have changed Honduras from a banana republic to a barrier to break the threatening storm in the region. From Honduras, imperialism carries out acts of aggression against the Nicaraguan people and the Salvadoran revolution.

The Pentagon and its military advisers and the Armed Forces staffs of El Salvador and Honduras have planned combined maneuvers to allow the Salvadoran Army to pull out of the difficult situation created by the FMLN and to develop conditions for the electoral farce. This is why during the first days of March, imperialism's puppet army initiated operations in northern Morazan, San Miguel, and La Union to push the FMLN forces in those areas to the border area, where Honduran troops were waiting; and the arrival of 2,000 U.S. soldiers in the area was announced with the excuse of guaranteeing elections in El Salvador.

Neither imperialism nor the staffs of the genocidal Armies of Honduras and El Salvador took into consideration the heroism and combativeness of our people and the Honduran people. The Honduran revolutionary movement, through its political and military organizations, carried out combative revolutionary activities that diverted the attention of the Honduran Army to the domestic problems in that country. In our fatherland, the FMLN made the plan fail and entangled, manacled, and restrained the military units of the puppet army.

In view of the interventionist escalation of Yankee imperialism, the FMLN reaffirms its unbreakable decision to struggle against any invading force trying to stain our homeland and calls on our brave people to reject foreign intervention.

Viva Labor Day! Viva the working class! Glory to the heroes who died in combat! No to the electoral farce! Let everyone reject and fight Yankee intervention! United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win! [words indistinct]

Venceremos Notes Action

PA291310 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] We have a report from San Salvador. Urban commandos of the FMLN Saturday morning, 28 April, seized five San Salvador radio stations simultaneously to broadcast an analysis on the national situation. The urban commandos seized Radio El Mundo, Radio Cadena Central, Radio Clasica, Radio Mil Ochenta, and Radio Vanguardia. This action took place in the midst of the dictatorship's reinforced watches in the capital because of the upcoming electoral farce.

In other parts of the country our workers' army continues hitting, wearing out, and seizing arms from the puppet army that serves the rich oligarchs. And while this is going on, the activities of our urban commandos are increasing in the capital. The Salvadoran workers' army advances to secure the strategic interests of the workers.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA DENIES ALLEGED U.S. PLANS TO INVADE C.A.

PA271022 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores today rejected reports of alleged U.S. Government plans to invade Central America to stop the advance of leftist guerrillas. Mejia Victores said that this is simply the opinion of some observers.

[Begin recording] [Mejia Victores] All I can say is that these are erroneous opinions, and they lack veracity. An observer does not have the capacity to issue an opinion on what a government's decision will be.

[Unidentified reporter] What about the maneuvers being carried out by U.S. (?forces) in the Atlantic Ocean off the Central American coast?

[Mejia Victores] They are free to carry out their maneuvers because of bilateral treaties, and the maneuvers are taking place outside our territorial waters. They are in international waters in the Caribbean sector. [end recording]

MEJIA: ASSEMBLY INSTALLATION DATE TO BE MOVED UP

PA280435 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Apr 84 p 8

[Text] The head of state has confirmed an international report: "The date of the Constituent Assembly's installation will be moved up." The government will move up the date of the National Constituent Assembly deputies' swearing-in ceremony, not the date of the elections. This was clarified yesterday by General Mejia Victores at a press conference. The decision to bring forward the date, he said, was made because 2 months is too long to wait. He said that in previous plans the swearing-in ceremony had been scheduled for 15 September. However, he believes that 2 months is a long time. He added that if there is no objection and everything comes out as planned, and the process concludes before 10 July, the swearing-in ceremony could be held on 15 July or 1 August. He added: Why wait until 15 September? The 1 July elections will be invariable, he said, because if we make provisions to move them up, there would not be enough time.

The Presidential Elections After That

On the elections to choose a president of the Republic, the head of state said that we must wait until the constitution has been prepared. When the constitution and the electoral law are ready, the way will be open for general elections as soon as possible, after which he will be able to retire and rest.

HONDURAS

SECURITY FORCES ARREST TWO LABOR LEADERS

PA292232 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2122 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 29 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The Honduran secret police today arrested two labor leaders. The reason for their arrest is not known. Napoleon Acevedo Granados, secretary general of the United Federation of Honduran Workers (FUTH), and Leonor Meza, leader of the Union of Workers of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (SITRAUNAH), were arrested today at the Tegucigalpa airport. The two leaders were returning from trips abroad, where they had attended labor meetings. Authorities have refused to give details of the arrests because, as one of the agents said, "We do not want to hinder the investigation that we are conducting."

SITRAUNAH leader Julio Zavala said that police apparently believe that "our companeros are involved in some subversive activity. What they are really doing is preparing for the Labor Day celebrations." Zavala said that the Armed Forces and the military intelligence services are responsible for anything that might happen to the prisoners.

NICARAGUA

NEW REGULATIONS FOR U.S. VISITORS ISSUED

PA290354 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] In order to facilitate the entrance of U.S. citizens into Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Government, through its Migration and Alien Directorate [Direccion de Migracion y Extranjeria], has issued the following regulations:

1. Any U.S. citizen wanting to visit Nicaragua will be able to enter the national territory by simply presenting a migration card allowing him to enter Nicaragua.

2. For U.S. citizens, the migration card takes the place of a visa.

3. This card will be given to travelers by the commercial transportation enterprise, and will also be available at migration checkposts throughout Nicaragua.

4. The authorization to enter Nicaragua grants the bearer of this card the right to stay in the country for as long as 30 days. This term can be extended on request.

5. These regulations do not apply to those who travel as official U.S. Government representatives. These persons will have to get the appropriate visa issued by the Nicaraguan diplomatic representative in Washington.

DANIEL ORTEGA CRITICIZES U.S., PASTORAL LETTER

PA271551 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0242 GMT 27 Apr 84

["Face the People" program, with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, in the Las Sierritas neighborhood in Managua; monitored in progress -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] The U.S. Government's determination to continue its policy of opposing Contadora goes against the Contadora Group's efforts. The U.S. Government's attitude now is to not accept an international organization such as The Hague Court, although they have resorted to this Court in conflicts with other countries. However, now that Nicaragua is accusing the United States at The Hague, it says that it will not accept any kind of accusations at The Hague Court for the next 2 years. They are violating international law.

What does this mean then? It means that we cannot fool ourselves about Contadora. We have to support Contadora because it is a Latin American effort, because it is a stumbling block in the path of the U.S. interventionist policy. But so long as the United States does not change its attitude, we cannot expect Contadora to resolve the existing problems. On the contrary, the United States will dream up ways to destroy Contadora, to hinder its progress. Then they will place all the blame on Nicaragua and seek to increase intervention against Nicaragua.

It is not by chance that Honduran, Costa Rican, and Salvadoran foreign ministers are meeting in El Salvador. This meeting is being promoted by the United States, seeking to form blocs among the Central American countries so that at the next Contadora meeting the foreign ministers will adopt positions precluding any progress.

It has even been said that Mr Shlaudeman, who is the U.S. representative in these matters, has adopted the position that the Contadora meeting scheduled in the next few days should be postponed.

The United States is not interested in Contadora because it is not interested in a political resolution to Central American problems. The United States wants a war, a military resolution. So long as the U.S. attitude does not change we cannot harbor illusions about Contadora, nor can we hope for a prompt resolution. We have to be constantly on the alert, militarily prepared, and always ready to defend our revolution from this imperialist intervention that we have been facing ever since the current U.S. Administration assumed power.

Companera Castillo [not further identified] asked if the pastoral letter and the attitude assumed by the political parties do not hinder the Contadora Group's efforts. We must say that they do, because the U.S. Government is clutching at any minor domestic issue to create the impression that there is a domestic conflict in Nicaragua, that it is not a conflict between the United States and Nicaragua but one among Nicaraguans. The United States claims that it is therefore fitting to support the counterrevolutionary forces that Mr Reagan has called liberators. He has called the former Somozist guardsmen and traitors freedom fighters.

It is not by chance that under these circumstances it is advocating aggression against Nicaragua and peace efforts while the famous pastoral letter is being issued. The pastoral letter is not innocent. It is calculated, premeditated, and guided by the CIA. We don't doubt that some of these bishops were directed from the U.S. Embassy here and acted accordingly to bring the debate on the letter up at the Episcopal Conference, even over the objections of some bishops. We are sure that some bishops disagree with the contents of the pastoral letter, and yet the letter was issued. Why? Because the U.S. Government wanted it.

We are facing a political attitude by false prophets. This is not the first time in the history of Christianity that there have been false prophets.

This is nothing new. They have their own political attitude, and we don't condemn their political attitude. We believe that this is something normal and natural. There are no human conflicts about political attitudes. Even he who claims to be apolitical is assuming a political attitude.

In this case, the attitude of the signers of the pastoral letter is dishonest because, on the one hand, they have been pressuring, slandering, and attacking priests and nuns who, even before the revolution triumphed, were identified with the people's struggle as Christians. They identified themselves politically with the FSLN's struggle. They joined the struggle. Some of them died in that struggle, like Father Gaspar Garcia Laviana, and even now they continue to support the liberation process because they believe it is the proper Christian attitude.

Then on the other hand there are bishops who condemn that political attitude assumed by priests who side with the people and the revolution. Yet they want the privilege of adopting political positions against the revolution.

Imperialism has deployed its forces from abroad. It has deployed its mercenary forces from Costa Rica and Honduras, led by the CIA. It has deployed its forces on the high seas with its warships, mining our harbors. It also has minority forces deployed within our country, because these renegades are a minority. From their allegedly religious positions, or from their economic and political positions, they want to adopt a counterrevolutionary attitude that is part of the domestic destabilization plan.

By mere coincidence, the revolutionary triumph in Nicaragua came about at a time when a tremendous worldwide economic crisis was beginning that, logically, affected all countries, especially poor countries. Rich countries fight that crisis at the expense of poor countries.

Even if there had not been a revolution in Nicaragua there would be a crisis. There would be a crisis in Nicaragua even without aggression, just as there is an economic crisis in Costa Rica and Latin America, even in countries with great natural resources like Venezuela, Mexico, and Brazil. These countries are also facing economic crisis. In Nicaragua the crisis is aggravated by U.S. aggression.

We believe it is very positive that you have commented on the pastoral letter as a political document. You, as Christians, have the right and the duty to express your opinion about a political document that we believe is not fair or correct.

They should rectify their positions. Some bishops rectified themselves and adopted positions with the people. That would be the best thing, because no one dislikes bishops in this country. What the people dislike are the political positions defended by the bishops. These are political positions that, as you have [words indistinct] are incorrect.

We are sure that few people in Nicaragua favor a dialogue with the criminal guardsmen, very few. The Nicaraguan people disagree with this dialogue with the criminal guardsmen and traitors. The Nicaraguan people are generous, but despite this generosity many mothers protest. When the amnesty was decreed, for example, pardon was decreed for those who had engaged in counterrevolutionary activities. We have had to explain that this generous attitude covers those who have not committed crimes against the people. It covers those who have been kidnapped and forced to join the guerrillas. We are giving these people the opportunity to reinstate themselves in the community.

How can the people favor a dialogue with the Somozist guardsmen who are murdering our people? I believe that you have clearly expressed your opinion regarding this matter. There should be a dialogue in this country among those of us who are trying to rebuild and improve the country. The bishops have the opportunity to talk to the people. Let them do so. The bishops have the opportunity to talk with the government. We met with the bishops a few months ago. We haven't met with them since. We spoke to them frankly. We told them that the revolutionary government demanded that they act as pastors and rise above all political positions. No one is asking them to be Sandinists, but neither should they be anti-Sandinists. They hold a mass when a counterrevolutionary, a rich man, or a capitalist dies. Why do they refuse to hold a mass for those humble people who fell fighting attacks by the counterrevolutionaries? They could not give us an answer. Why don't they [word indistinct] with workers who support the revolution? I asked them. They fraternize with capitalists who are seeking a return to the past.

We proposed a dialogue with them. That was 2 months ago, and there hasn't been a meeting since then with the bishops. We have proposed to meet with them, but they refused. What does this mean? It means that they have shunned a dialogue with the revolutionary government. After refusing to meet with the government, they are now proposing a dialogue with the Somozist guardsmen. This position is inadmissible. The people have clearly expressed their rejection of this position. What they should do is rectify their political position and join in condemning crimes against the people. We can see clearly who is committing those crimes. It is that U.S. organization.

Well, companeros, with this we end this meeting. We hope that we can meet again.

JUNTA CRITICIZES U.S., CALLS FOR TREATIES

PA281335 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Communique released by the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in Managua on 27 April -- live or recorded]

[Text] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction feels that the tension in Central America has been dangerously intensified by the U.S. Government's military escalation, especially the actions carried out by the CIA against Nicaraguan sovereignty, which include the mining of our ports. Such actions have earned the just repudiation of the international community as well as that of the U.S. Congress and public opinion. These actions seek to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution and, with this, the people's right to self-determination.

The Nicaraguan people, like all others, have the inalienable right to free self-determination and, in the exercise of that right, seen for the first time in their history on 19 July 1979, they began the first truly democratic process in our country, promoting a new economic, political, and social system which emerged from the imperative need to create a new system marked by social justice for all within the framework of the Sandinist people's revolution's deeply popular, nationalistic, and anti-imperialist nature.

The Nicaraguan people's right to self-determination is set forth in the principles and commitments contained in the program of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and the Fundamental Statute of the Republic, such as:

1. Nonalignment. A policy through which we have reasserted our commitment to follow an independent foreign policy of nonalignment that links our country with all nations that respect the self-determination of the peoples.

2. Mixed economy: A policy through which we have reasserted our determination to advance in consolidating a system of a mixed economy made up of property systems [regimenes de propiedad] of specific scope and clearly defined characteristics.

3. Political pluralism, through which we have reasserted our commitment to the people to guarantee broad representation to those forces who helped overthrow the Somozist dictatorship and continue to work within our people's revolutionary process. To fulfill this, the Political Parties Law and the Electoral Law have been promulgated, and free elections have been called for 4 November 1984.

4. Attainment and defense of the human rights and freedom of expression for which the Nicaraguan people fought, which today are affected by the U.S. Government's terrorist policy.

At their next meeting, the Contadora Group foreign ministers will be faced with the difficult and delicate task of furthering attempts to find a formula for regional understanding despite the new kind of threats, blackmail, and U.S. aggression that threaten Nicaragua's security and self-determination.

The naval military maneuvers recently begun in the Gulf of Fonseca and the intensification of spy flights by the U.S. military are a grave element of provocation that the U.S. Administration has introduced into the region in its search for pretexts to justify a larger-scale, direct military intervention against Nicaragua. This affects negotiating efforts within Contadora.

In view of this situation, now more than ever it is imperative to heed the world's clamor for total respect for the principles of non-intervention and a political resolution to the disputes that brought about the Contadora Group's efforts, and for the just demand that Nicaragua has introduced at the International Court of Justice regarding the U.S. violation of international law in Nicaragua.

We are convinced that negotiation requires the establishment of an appropriate climate, confidence among all the parties involved, and specific good will steps. The only way to achieve these goals is through the strictest respect for the norms that international law establishes to regulate harmonious relations among sovereign states: non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other states; respect for the principle of self-determination of the peoples; and the non-use of either force or the threat of force in relations among states.

Nicaragua insists that it is absolutely essential to proceed immediately to sign bilateral and multilateral treaties that can guarantee peace and security among all of the regional states, at a time when this is very seriously threatened by the escalation of U.S. intervention and aggression in the area. Postponing the signing of these treaties until all the countries reach agreements through other possible regional commitments is a dangerous, dilatory, tactic that would demonstrate a lack of willingness to ensure the peace that our peoples vehemently and in all right demand.

Our government has demonstrated in the past, and will continue to demonstrate the strictest abidance by the norms of international law. This has been demonstrated by our appeals to the organizations created by the international community to promote the peaceful resolution of controversies.

After 50 years, Sandino lives!

U.S. DEFENSE AT THE HAGUE COURT EXCORIATED

PA280431 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] The Hague -- The United States has limited its defense against the Nicaraguan accusations in the International Court of Justice to issues of form, eluding the substance of the topic: its constant aggressions against Nicaragua. Davis Robinson, the U.S. representative, argued that Nicaragua has never recognized the jurisdiction of the International Court and requested that the accusation be definitely removed from the docket. This provoked a harsh reaction from Nigerian Taslim Olawale Elias, president of the court. This court is not in the habit of receiving orders from the United States about how it should proceed, the magistrate replied to the U.S. representative, who based his argument on the U.S. decision not to recognize the court's jurisdiction and on the alleged regional and not bilateral character of the conflict. The arguments were suspended in mid-morning after the refutation of the U.S. allegations by Carlos Arguello, Nicaraguan ambassador to the Netherlands, who will speak once again this afternoon.

TINOCO CONCERNED OVER C.A. MINISTERS STANCE

PA280115 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Panama City -- Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has expressed concern over the release of a joint declaration by the Salvadoran, Costa Rican, and Honduran foreign ministers. Tinoco said that the declaration has created confusion and distrust in the technical commissions that are discussing security, economic, social, and political topics with the Contadora Group.

Tinoco's concern is shared by his counterparts in the Contadora's technical group, who were surprised by the document, which introduced evident frictions in the negotiations underway.

FORMER BANK PRESIDENT HEADS NEW OPPOSITION GROUP

PA272226 San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] A political movement called Nicaraguan National Rescue and Conciliation [Rescate y Conciliacion Nacional de Nicaragua] has been established here. Alfredo Cesar Aguirre, former president of the Nicaraguan Central Bank during the first months of the current Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, made the announcement. The group has been formed along the lines of the former RESCATE [Recovery of the Original Nicaraguan Revolution] that was created in Costa Rica on 30 June 1983 and disbanded on 5 April of this year.

Alfredo Cesar Aguirre, president of the group, said that the organization is being reborn, but with a wider scope. He said that the Nicaraguan problem is out of the Nicaraguans' hands. He said that Nicaragua needs a nationwide dialogue with the participation of all citizens, regardless of their ideological position, religion, or social standing. He added that the powers that are involved in Nicaragua and throughout the area should leave solutions to Central Americans, thereby preventing greater evils. He also said that the group will not only work in exile, it will work inside Nicaragua because that is the logical thing to do.

ARDE SENDS LETTER TO CONTADORA FOREIGN MINISTERS

PA300130 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2249 GMT 29 Apr 84

[Text] San Jose, 29 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) today said again that Nicaragua's democratization is a basic condition to achieve peace in Central America. On the eve of a new meeting of the Contadora Group, ARDE, which has been fighting the Nicaraguan Government in the southern part of the country, stressed that " a Central America" solution that does not include the democratization of Nicaragua would be incomplete and would not guarantee peace."

ARDE has asked the Contadora Group (Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Venezuela) to send observers to the territory of southern Nicaragua that it claims it has "liberated." ARDE's position, adopted jointly by its political and military leadership, is contained in a document addressed to the Contadora foreign ministers, who will meet Monday in Panama to continue their mediating efforts to achieve peace in that regard. ARDE's political leaders are Alfonso Robelo, Brooklyn Rivera, Jose Urroz, and Zacarias Hernandez. The military leaders are Commanders Eden Pastora and Fernando Chamarro.

ARDE has sent a copy of the document to each of the Contadora foreign ministers, explaining its position regarding the situation in Nicaragua and Central America. It reminds the ministers that ARDE has on several occasions presented formulas to achieve peace in the area.

ARDE says that in the last one, issued 2 months ago, "we stressed that we are willing even to agree to a cease-fire for the sake of peace if the FSLN promises to take concrete steps to meet the demands made by those of us who are fighting to rescue the revolution's original program," which would in turn "give credibility to the elections."

The ARDE leaders said, however, that the Nicaraguan regime has not answered any of their proposals, and that the situation has worsened, especially because of the arms buildup by the FSLN, which is disrupting the military balance with Nicaragua's Central American neighbors. According to the ARDE leaders, another disrupting factor is that "the FSLN has developed an immense espionage network throughout Central America led by the Bulgaria-Cuba-USSR axis." The ARDE spokesmen said that the situation has worsened because the "Managua Marxist-Leninist government has developed a destabilization plan against the Central American governments, and this has led to the intensification of the regional crisis."

FDN CLAIMS MATAGALPA, JINOTEGA VICTORIES

PA270436 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Apr 84 p 20

[Excerpt] According to the clandestine radio 15 September, clashes have taken place in almost all of Matagalpa, specifically in the regions of Cano Negro, Yaosca, La Patriota, San Jose de la Mula, Pancasan, Muy Muy Viejo, Bilampi, La Castilla, El Cacao, Bulbul, La Dalia, El Tuma, Yaro, El Algodon, Dipina, La Ceiba, Copalar, Paiwas, Laulo, Guasayamba, and Los Cedros. The source also said that other units of the "Jorge Salazar" regional commando that operate in this zone are advancing toward other military targets. In their broadcasts, the Nicaraguan patriots did not give specific information on the casualties caused by the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], alleging that the intensity of the clashes has made the calculation of casualties difficult.

In another north-central sector of Jinotega, the insurgents of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] ambushed two EPS companies in the areas known as El Guapinol, Aguas Calientes, El Chamorro, and in Los Planes de Vilan. During these ambushes, the station said, the government troops suffered more than 50 casualties including deaths and injuries.

In this same department, there was a strong clash last 22 April in the area known as San Felipe. In this clash, a BLI battalion [Battalion for Irregular Warfare], described as elite troops by the Sandinist government itself, was forced to retreat by the patriotic forces. In this action, the patriots seized 14 AK-47 rifles, 1 RPD machinegun, 82-mm mortar ammunition, and other war materiel.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON BOMBING IN ANGOLA

Attack Denounced at UN

FL271428 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] United Nations -- Cuba has denounced before the United Nations the criminal dynamite attack on Cuban civilian workers in the Angolan City of Huambo. A statement presented to UN headquarters by the Cuban mission to the United Nations [word indistint] the act that took place last [word indistinct] Cuban internationalists and 10 Angolan civilians, including women and children.

The note states that the resources and techniques used to carry out the attack could only have been provided to the counterrevolutionary bandits by the well developed criminal industry of the United Stattes and its South African allies. The Cuban note presented to the United Nations stresses the fact that the Cuban people know the sacrifices that their internationalist vocation entails and accept them with a complete sense of their historical responsibility.

Toriello Extends Condolences

PA281248 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Guillermo Toriello, president of the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America and representative of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, has expressed to this radio station his solidarity with and condolences to the Cuban Government, people, and family members of the Cuban internationalists who were victims of a terrorist attack while offering their social services in the Angolan City of Huambo. Toriello said that imperialism will not intimidate the Cuban people with these aggressions, but will continue to encourage their firm decision to defend the revolution and maintain their internationalist principles.

U.S.,South Africa Accused

PA290354 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpts] In hundreds of assemblies and meetings organized in labor centers, agriculutral and livestock cooperatives, and schools, our people have continued showing their willingness, whenever it proves necessary, to take the place of the Cubans who died during the criminal dynamite attack in the Angolan City of Huambo.

On Saturday the newspaper GRANMA published interviews with the six cooperating Cubans wounded in that attack. These men were taken to Cuba for medical care. The statements in GRANMA reconfirm the accusations against both the Washington and Pretoria governments, the perpetrators of this new crime, and reaffirm the willingness to continue fulfilling the principles of proletarian internationalism and facing the risks and sacrifices inherent in this stance.

A communique issue by the FMLN-FDR representatives in Cuba has accused the U.S. and South African Governments of supplying arms and explosives to criminal bands who murder defenseless civilians.

This action is no different from those directed by the CIA against Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Grenada, the Salvadoran revolutionaries' message asserted.

Venezuelan Council Blames U.S.

FL271728 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Caracas -- The Venezuelan Council for Peace and Human Rights [Consejo por la Paz y los Derechos Humanos] has blamed the United States for the criminal attack in Huambo that cost the lives of 14 Cuban internationalist workers and 10 Angolan civilians. A communique signed by the secretary general of the council, (Francisco Meri Sanchez), expresses the unyielding solidarity of the council with the honest, human, and heroic struggle of the Cuban internationalist workers and their Angolan brothers.

RAUL CASTRO SEES OFF BCP OFFICIAL AFTER TALKS

FL271230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Party Central Committee, has seen off Yordan Yotov, member of the BCP Politburo, after they held a friendly conversation at Jose Marti International Airport. Yotov, who is also chief editor of RABOTNICHESKO DELO, the official organ of the BCP Central Committee, held talks with several leaders of the Communist Party of Cuba during his stay in the country. In the talks he learned about various aspects of Cuban life and foreign policy.

CROMBET RECEIVES BCP CONSTRUCTION DELEGATION

FL281740 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Jaime Crombet, member of the party Secretariat, has received at Central Committee headquarters the Bulgarian delegation that accompanied the Fidel Castro Brigade on its trip to Cuba. The delegation from the brother country is presided over by Stanoy Yonev, chief of the Construction and Architecture Department of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP].

During the fraternal meeting, information was exchanged on construction work in both countries and on party activities in this important sector.

The Fidel Castro Brigade, made up by Bulgarian construction workers, will work on the construction of the Cienfuegos nuclear powerhouse.

WORKERS GROUP PREPARES TO DEPART FOR BULGARIA

FL271514 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Bulgarian Ambassador to Cuba Petur Marinkov has presided over a departure ceremony for the members of the Cuban-Bulgarian Friendship Brigade, made up of 82 construction workers from our country, who will depart for that European nation to work on the (Dimitur Blagoev) Printing Plant.

The group of Cuban construction workers will spend 1 year in Bulgaria completing this internationalist mission. The construction of the (Dimitur Blagoev) Printing Plant in Sofia will take 2 years. The production section will be built in the first phase, and the socio-administrative section in the second.

CSSR DELEGATION VISITS PUNTA GORDA NICKEL PLANT

FL280140 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] Czechoslovakian Deputy Premier Ladislav Gerle has visited the Punta Gorda nickel plant in Holguin Province where plant production is slated to begin in October.

Gerle, who is also a member of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ], was briefed by experts on the main characteristics of this huge plant, where Czechoslovakia is providing technical assistance in various projects.

Gerle and his delegation, accompanied by Cuban leaders from the National Assembly of People's Government [ANPP] and from the Communist Party in Holguin, visited the Camarioca area where a plant similar to the Punta Gorda plant will be built, which will be called CAME 1.

The Czechoslovak delegation this afternoon will visit Holguin City, site of a large investment project for the industrial development of nickel.

RAUL CASTRO VISITS MATANZAS COOPERATIVE

FL271304 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] FAR Minister Raul Castro has held a meeting with members of the Arturo Suarez Agricultural Production Cooperative in Jovellanos. After Raul presided over the opening ceremonies of the Commander Horacio Rodriguez Provincial MTT [Territorial Troops Militia] School of Matanzas, Luis Matheu, alternate member of the Central Committee and president of the peasant cooperative, gave Raul a detailed explanation of the development and operation of the facility and of the main achievements it is making in all fields.

During the tour of the cooperative, facilities were exhibited which are related to the high productivity rates that have been achieved in various categories. In all these achievements, there has been participation by women and young people. Before leaving, Army General Raul Castro wrote the following note in the visitors book:

To the first cooperative in agricultural production of Matanzas, one of the best in all the Republic, our congratulations for all the economic, political, and social successes you have achieved in just a few years. Our gratitude and admiration for the great example you have set for all peasants and for all Cubans.

BUSINESS AGREEMENT REACHED WITH MEXICO

FL271420 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] With the issuing of a joint communique, the fourth plenary meeting of the Mexico-Cuba Business Committee has ended in Mexico City. The document briefly summarizes the meeting and the ten points of the work program for 1984.

The communique points out the goal of evening out the balance of trade between the two countries. It also indicates Cuba's interest in having Mexican businessmen regain the Cuban market for components and spare parts, as well as in producing transportation and agricultural equipment in Cuba.

CTC PLANS 1 MAY COMBATANT PEOPLE'S MARCH

FL281940 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1520 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] The Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] has issued a call for a combatant people's march on 1 May with great color, speed, organization, and revolutionary combativeness. The document adds that this will be a great parade in which the Cuban people will express their indignation for the base and cowardly assassination of the internationalist workers who were making their modest contribution to the economic and social development of the brother people of Angola.

The document says that the workers will make patent in provincial ceremonies and in the parade in Revolutionary Square their most energetic condemnation of the Yankee imperialists and their lackeys for their brutal and abominable act.

The national CTC stresses the fact that this combatant people's march will confirm the indestructible strength of our socialist revolution and its Marxist-Leninist ideology. We will parade in Revolutionary Square -- the scene of so many days of struggle -- under the slogan "Doing our duty more than ever toward production and defense on 1 May," the CTC document says.

Alfredo Morales, member of the CTC National Secretariat, said that in anticipation of this workers' celebration, 16 foreign delegations will arrive in this capital today, Saturday. This leader of the workers' movement said that the final touches will be given to the adornment and beautifying of the historical Jose Marti Revolutionary Square, where no less than 500,000 persons will participate in the combatant people's march, which will last two hours.

The CTC document stresses the firm decision to produce more with higher quality and at lower cost, and to enhance profitability.

INTELLECTUALS PERMANENT COMMITTEE MEETING ENDS

FL272024 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1514 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] The third working meeting of the Permanent Committee of Intellectuals for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Our America has ended at House of the Americas headquarters in Havana.

Ernesto Cardenal, from Nicaragua; Juan Bosch, from the Dominican Republic; Mario Beneveti, from Uruguay; (Chico Walter Yolanda), from Brazil; (George Laming), from Barbados; and Mariano Rodriguez, from Cuba, took part in this meeting. The Barbadian writer (George Laming) distributed a pamphlet containing the speech given by Maurice Bishop during the first conference, which was held in Grenada in 1982, and announced that eight new pamphlets are being prepared containing materials from the recent meeting in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mariano Rodriguez, president of the House of the Americas, spoke in favor of giving that organization greater facility and dynamism for including scientists, theologians, inventors, and persons from other intellectual fields.

CHINESE CRITICIZE REAGAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

FL272356 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] President Ronald Reagan has failed in his attempt to drag China into a crusade against the Soviet Union. Instead, he received strong criticism in Beijing for his warmongering policies throughout the world. A Chinese spokesman said contradictions between the United States and China were evident today during the first round of talks between Premier Zhao Ziyang and President Reagan as they discussed the international situation.

Zhao Ziyang asked President Reagan to suspend the deployment of nuclear medium-range missiles in West Germany, which constitutes a slap in the face to President Reagan.

The Chinese Government's leader told President Reagan the United States must respect the Contadora Group's efforts in seeking a solution to the Central American situation.

Premier Zhao Ziyang asked President Reagan to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The Chinese premier, responding to Reagan's anti-Soviet rhetoric, said that his nation is in favor of normalizing relations with the USSR on the basis of the five principles for peaceful coexistence. The Chinese premier told President Reagan that longstanding tensions between China and the USSR injures both nations and world peace. Zhao Ziyang said that despite continued differences between China and the USSR, there had been an increase in trade and cultural relations.

Zhao Ziyang today said in conversations with President Reagan in Beijing that First Deputy Chairman of the CPSU Central Committee Ivan Arkhipov will soon visit China. The Chinese premier told Reagan that during the Soviet leader's visit they will discuss extending economic, trade, and technological cooperation between the USSR and China.

The Chinese premier asked President Reagan to immediately suspend deployment of new nuclear missiles in Western Europe and asked the USSR to suspend its proposed countermeasures. During conversations with Reagan, Zhao Ziyang called for the United States and the Soviet Union to resume disarmament talks.

Zhao Ziyang asked Reagan to respect the Contadora Group's efforts aimed at reducing the tension in Central America. The Chinese Premier told the Yankee President that the key to the Middle East problem was the Palestinian problem, and called for the United States to recognize these Arab people's rights and initiate talks with the PLO.

Zhao Ziyang asked Reagan to demand that the racist South African regime comply with accords signed with Angola and Mozambique as well as with UN resolutions on Namibia's independence.

The talks held today in Beijing between the Chinese premier and President Ronald Reagan constitute a criticism of the Yankee bellicose policies throughout the world.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION SAID PLANNING MASS ARRESTS

FL281650 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] Under the pretext of combating terrorism, the Reagan administration is preparing an unprecedented operation to carry out mass arrests in the United States of supposedly undesirable elements who will be crowded into concentration camps. This operation was ordered in a supersecret directive of the so-called National Security Council and signed by President Reagan himself on 5 April.

According to an ultrarightist publication, the directive bears the code name Rex-84 and includes the order to construct 10 enormous concentration camps in different parts of the United States with a total capacity of 200,000 persons. The source states that the operation will begin with mass arrests of illegal aliens. These arrests will serve as a cover for the arrest and reclusion of political adversaries, enemies, and known critics that the Reagan administration considers dangerous, the ultrarightist U.S. publication states.

U.S. ACTIVITIES IN GRENADA, C.A. SCORED

'Military Regime' in Grenada

PA270453 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 26 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The military invasion of the Caribbean island of Grenada, one of imperialism's most deplored actions in past years, is still the cause of demonstrations and condemnation. Six months after the homicidal units of the U.S. Marines landed in this country, Grenada's image appears to the world shrouded by the mist of oppression and crime.

Kendrick Radix, former Grenadian justice minister, has said that the presumed withdrawal of U.S. troops from that island -- loudly proclaimed at the end of last year -- turned out to be a U.S. propaganda soap bubble, because there are still almost 1,500 U.S. troops on the island. U.S. Marine infantry troops, CIA personnel, paramilitary groups, and experts in interrogations and investigations have established a military occupation regime in Grenada.

According to the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN, every 45 days groups of military troops and advisers arrive in Grenada for the purpose of maintaining order. Roundups are common in the areas where former military men, former members of the popular militias, and members of the New Jewel Movement are jailed. The media is banned, and activities by mass organizations that existed during the administration of assassinated Prime Minister Maurice Bishop are strictly prohibited.

With the objective of detecting any subversive activity, Grenadian cities are searched by U.S. combat helicopters based at the Port Salinas International Airport, where the traces of blood of the Grenadian patriots and the Cuban construction workers who defended their work posts before the military, technological, and logistic power of the Yankee soldiers are still fresh. At the Port Salinas airport, the United States is constructing a military base. No Grenadian has access to the areas surrounding this airport, which had been destined to improve Grenada's economic conditions and the construction of which the people had followed closely and happily. The U.S. Government is trying to convert Grenada into a military base, into a sort of unsinkable aircraft carrier, which will allow it to consolidate its position of gendarme in the eastern Caribbean.

The achievements which the Grenadian people obtained under the Maurice Bishop government are disappearing under the influence of the Yankee military. Unemployment, according to official information, has increased by 30 percent in recent months.

U.S. monopolies have taken over all exports and tourism in Grenada, and the state firms are handed over to private owners. U.S. imperialism has decorated as heroes all those who in some measure were involved in the invasion of Grenada. The murderous Marines, who ferociously repressed defenseless persons; the CIA agents; and even military personnel who did not even leave the Pentagon during those days have received medals. This is part of the U.S. Government propaganda campaign, an effort to stimulate fascist chauvinism among the U.S. citizens, and to convince them that it is perfectly permissible to use troops to repress progressive movements in other nations.

According to information by the U.S. press itself, President Ronald Reagan, drunk from the supposed success of his troops in Grenada, deceived by his own lies, is analyzing the possibility of carrying out a similar lightning war in Central America. This is how he increasingly accentuates his escalation in this region, especially against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolutionary movement, and makes a show of the "Ocean Venture-84" maneuvers in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. In times past, U.S. leaders made these same errors, and they dragged the United States into the dirty war against the Vietnamese people, which for all honest U.S. citizens constituted a national embarrassment. The terrible Grenadian episode, the world rejection that it has created and which is still felt, could constitute -- as Commander in Chief Fidel Castro said -- an incident of identical repercussion for the United States, as was the assault on the Moncada headquarters for the Batista tyranny in Cuba.

Maneuvers Include War Elements

PA281951 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 27 Apr 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. military maneuvers "Ocean Venture-84," which are currently taking place in the Caribbean Basin and the Gulf of Mexico, represent a show of imperialist force which contributes to increasing the tension prevailing in the convulsed Central American region. The gigantic operation includes all the elements of a modern war: the participation of naval and air assault groups, amphibious units, and paratrooper battalions. This is the largest exercise of its kind ever carried out by the United States in the Caribbean.

The "Ocean Venture" maneuvers are taking place at a time when the Washington government has stepped up its aggression against Nicaragua through subversive CIA operations, including the mining of Nicaraguan ports; it also trains, supplies, and guides counterrevolutionary bands which operate from Costa Rica and Honduras. Last year the U.S. Pentagon carried out similar maneuvers which served to rehearse an aggression against the island of Grenada -- perpetrated in October.

According to U.S. generals, the "Ocean Venture" exercises will show the world that the United States has the capacity to control maritime traffic in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico during a situation of war and emergency. The truth is that with the deployment of U.S. forces in the region the United States seeks to create an atmosphere of terror among the nations and issue some kind of warning to the progressive governments in the area.

The maneuvers include a landing on the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques and the naval base that the U.S. Government has illegally established on a fraction of the eastern Cuban Province of Guantanamo. The threatening U.S. war maneuvers include an operation to evacuate civilian personnel living on the air and naval station of Guantanamo and war games involving the defense of this area from air and sea. The aggressive character of the "Ocean Venture-84" maneuvers is quite evident; its cost involves several billions of dollars -- paid by the U.S. taxpayers. The exercises include the participation of 30,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces, 30 war ships, and 250 aircraft of the U.S. Navy and Air Force. U.S. Navy airplane squadrons, based on the aircraft carrier America, will fly in joint bombing missions with airplanes coming from Florida. In addition, six frigates will offer antisubmarine support to a naval group comprised of four destroyers -- which are equipped with long-range missiles.

The peoples of our America are quite aware of the nature of the U.S. imperialism's war crimes. The invasions of Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Cuba -- among others -- remain open sores in the history of this continent. Thus, the "Ocean Venture-84" maneuvers -- with which the United States is trying to prove its power -- will intimidate no one. Even the humble fishermen on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, who have no other weapon than their working tools, have asserted they will boycott the U.S. war exercises that have been repudiated by the world.

A mercenary army sent by the United States tried to crush the Cuban revolution in 1961 with a similar naval operation. A few days ago the Cubans proudly celebrated the 23d anniversary of the Playa Giron battle, which represented the first great military defeat inflicted on U.S. imperialism in our continent.

U.S. BEGINS MANEUVERS OFF NICARAGUAN COAST

FL261908 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Apr 84

[Text] Naval units from the United States, Honduras, and El Salvador have begun provocative vigilance maneuvers off the coasts of Nicaragua. The Pentagon has also transported 32,000 troops to the Caribbean under the pretext of aiding friends of the United States in the region.

It has also been learned that U.S. engineering troops have completed the construction of an airfield 20 km from the Nicaraguan border. This is the ninth airfield for military aircraft that Washington has built in Honduras in preparation for aggression againist the country of Sandino.

With these airports the White House can guarantee the transportation and deployment of a powerful force with which to attack Nicaragua.

The French daily L'HUMANITE and the U.S. paper THE LOS ANGELES TIMES have stated that the danger of war is hovering over Central America.

HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR JOIN FONSECA GULF MANEUVERS

FL271632 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] The Armed Forces of Honduras and El Salvador have officially announced their participation with the United States in the "Guardians of the Gulf" [Guardianas del Goifo] joint maneuvers which began yesterday in the Gulf of Fonseca.

FMLN Condemns Maneuvers

FL281332 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] The FMLN has condemned the naval maneuvers being carried out by the United States, Honduras, and El Salvador. The Salvadoran patriots believe that the military exercise is a provocation against the peoples of Central America.

Radio Venceremos has indicated that this operation being carried out in the Gulf of Fonseca is a part of Reagan's terrorist policy and has accused the U.S. President of trying to legitimize state terrorism throughout the world.

U.S. ESPIONAGE FLIGHTS OVER NICARAGUA DISCLOSED

PA282002 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] U.S. officials, who have asked not to be identified, have disclosed that five U.S. aircraft fly over Nicaragua every day to observe the movements of the Sandinist troops. The sources said that the aircraft take off from the military base that the United States has in Palmerola and that the aircraft fly low without electronic signals to prevent Nicaraguan radar from identifying them. The U.S. officials expressed their concern about the fact that the aircraft and pilots are exposed to Nicaraguan antiaircraft fire and to the danger of being shot down over Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran Army spokesmen have confirmed that members of the Atonal Battalion and approximately (?180) Salvadoran paratroopers will participate in the second phase of the U.S.-Honduran maneuvers, "Grenadier I," that will begin on 23 May and end in late June. The maneuvers will be held in the border area between Honduras and El Salvador. These maneuvers coincide with the so-called vigilance maneuvers that U.S., Honduran, and Salvadoran troops will carry out off the Nicaraguan coast, an action that many have described as another White House attempt to intimidate that Central American nation.

POST Confirms Flights

PA292017 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST has reported that airplanes coming from Palmerola Air Base, Honduras, and Howard Air Force Base, Panama, are making reconnaissance flights over Nicaragua in support of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. The newspaper adds that, according to an unidentified Honduran source, these aerial espionage actions have been named Merlin by the CIA. The flights were used in mining the Nicaraguan ports.

Pentagon spokesman Michael Burch rejected THE WASHINGTON POST reports, but the U.S. Defense Department itself has admitted that airplanes leaving Palmerola have carried out reconnaissance flights over Nicaragua in the past 3 months; these were said to be peaceful flights.

SALVADORAN AIR FORCE ALLEGEDLY USES NAPALM

PA282111 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Air Force has dropped napalm and white phosphorous bombs on the civilian population in the vicinity of Guazapa Volcano, according to statements from civilians and Army spokesmen of that Central American nation to MONTREAL GAZETTE reporter Cliff Hedges.

Residents of the Salvadoran community of Guadalupe described bombs that released a strong, bitter odor, and contain an inflammable liquid that penetrates the flesh and another that produces black smoke that affects breathing. The bombs also release an inflammable liquid that leaves a greasy film over land and water.

A soldier of the 5th Infantry Brigade confirmed to the reporter that the dropping of incendiary bombs is normal in the Guazapa Volcano area. Members of the Atlacatl Battalion, trained by U.S. military advisers, have reported towns burned to the ground and large areas of land left in ashes by the bombs.

SALVADORAN FMLN COMMANDER ON CAUSES OF WAR

WA251725 Havana GRANMA INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 25 Mar 84 p 10

[Article entitled "Why Is There a War in El Salvador?" by Joaquin Villalobos, commander in chief of the People's Revolutionary Army, ERP, and member of the FMLN General Command]

[Text] The Salvadoran Government and Army, along with the current administration in the United States, claim the war in our country has been imposed from abroad by the Soviet Union, Cuba, and Nicaragua. But the war in El Salvador has not come of an invasion or anything of the kind. The war in El Salvador did not suddenly develop in our history.

For many years our country has been ruled by the military in the interests of the wealthiest and most economically powerful families.

Each of these governments has served interests other than those of the majority, and the economic and social problems of the people have never been solved. Malnutrition, illiteracy, lack of health care, and unemployment have been viewed as problems which could not be solved, since a solution would necessarily affect the interests of the ruling economic groups.

This situation is evident and has only been denied by the most backward sectors, who view our workers and peasants as virtual slaves who must not be allowed to organize and make demands of any kind. It is this that has given rise to the unrest that has taken on different forms, ranging from the 1932 insurrection in which more than 30,000 peasants were massacred by General Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez, to elections, conspiracies of a patriotic nature, strikes by workers and teachers, student struggles and peasant mobilizations. In each case the government has used force, repression, political assassination, jail, torture and electoral fraud to impose its position. In each case the Armed Forces have served the interests of the wealthy families and were the main instrument to put down mass struggle that has always been seen as the work of small groups stirring the people to insolence.

The law of history in this process of social struggle is that people were led to a logical conclusion: armed power should be opposed with arms. Hence, in the 1970's, groups of young students, workers, and peasants started forming the first armed organizations. At the time, they were small urban units which came into being with great support from the people. In spite of the fact that cities and towns are small, the organizations proved impossible to destroy because they were protected by local neighborhood people.

By 1979 the impact of popular agitation and mobilization was spreading beyond the borders of the country and arousing concern in the United States, the logical ally of the military government. By then mass pressure was such that unrest had spread to an important sector of the Church and Army. The U.S. ambassador in our country moved in various ways to control conspiring in the Armed Forces, democratic sectors, and even among progressive private businessmen, so that this situation would not lead to an understanding between these sectors on the one hand, and the people's and guerrilla organizations on the other, paving the way for real change in the country.

The Armed Forces responded with firepower to every strike, land takeover, mobilization, or demand from the people. By 1980 the United States had approved the first five million dollars in military aid for the Salvadoran Army, which at the time was not facing war in any advanced stage but rather a strong mass insurgency.

The whole world has been witness to one of the most brutal, bloody, and repressive processes in Latin America. On March 24, 1980, a death squad led by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, now head of the Constituent Assembly, committed a crime which has had the most impact on the whole world and on our people, the murder of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador. This was unprecedented even for the most brutal dictatorships of Latin America and the rest of the world.

To this crime must be added others of great importance such as the murder of seven Catholic priests; the rector of the National University; the entire leadership of the Democratic Revolutionary Front, including Enrique Alvarez Cordova, a patriotic businessman who came from one of the wealthiest families in the country; two U.S. citizens linked to the agrarian reform project; Mario Zamora, a leader of the Christian Democratic Party; four U.S. nuns and four Dutch journalists; four members of the Human Rights Commission; and more than 200 teachers, some of whom were gunned down in school before their students. The newspaper EL INDEPENDIENTE and the radio station YSAX were destroyed; Jaime Suarez, editor of LA CRONICA, was murdered; the National University was closed down, ransacked, and destroyed; trade unions all over the country have been raided and their leaders and many others murdered or jailed.

The people right away responded with self-defense and confronted the Army with pistols, shotguns, and homemade bombs. General Garcia wanted to pacify the cities by terror and the countryside by depopulating whole areas, killing thousands of peasants; but it was all in vain. The mass movement could not be destroyed and the process developed into the current war. Just as the people formed urban guerrilla units and organized and mobilized sectors of the people, so also when conditions required war, they organized an army which has plunged the Armed Forces and the Salvadoran Government into the most difficult crisis they have ever faced, forcing the U.S. Administration to increasingly direct intervention.

The tremendous popular support for the FMLN made possible something which many felt was impossible: the building of a powerful insurgent Army in the smallest and most densely populated nation in the hemisphere. The power of the mass movement, which was shown by the biggest mobilization in the history of our country on January 22, 1980, was shown in the boost to the war fronts as the conflict grew worse. This is the only way to explain how, in such a small country, there can be FMLN regular and militia forces in virtually all parts of the country, with one of the main fronts within minutes of the capital.

The revolutionary movement underwent an entire process to build up its army and, taking advantage of its strong peasant base, to gain control of important areas and in them form, train, and arm regular military units of workers, peasants, and students from the mass organizations. This led the United States to mobilize large military and economic resources to salvage the Salvadoran military Government.

Advisers, weapons, warplanes, helicopters, tanks, etc., started coming into the country, while FMLN forces consolidated their main bastions in Morazan, Guazapa, Chalatenango, Usulutan and San Vicente, establishing positions in 11 of the 14 departments of the country. The Army used terror to establish apparent control of key cities, while the mass movement went further underground and the center of confrontation shifted to the countryside. There, increasingly large battles have been waged in which the Armed Forces have been unable to destroy the revolutionary army and had a toll of human and material losses.

Over a two-year period, the revolutionary army developed and gained in technique; its capacity multiplied and areas of operation were extended. Every effort and plan of the advisers and Armed Forces to destroy it was foiled. There was an accelerated

increase in military aid from the United States, the Army grew increasingly weaker, and advisers started appearing in combat zones. The regime's troop strength was increased but they were unable to control the situation and the war escalated. The FMLN continued advancing and organizing large sectors of the rural population, drawing their theaters of operation increasingly closer to the capital and the departmental capitals.

The Salvadoran Army started to feel that the only way out of its difficult situation was intervention and even a direct U.S. troops presence in the country.

This is the process by which U.S. intervention in our country gives rise to a war of greater military consequence as an outgrowth of people's struggle. This has had grave social and economic consequences for our country and for all of Central America.

The need for the United States to justify greater participation in the Salvadoran war leads it to blame Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Soviet Union for the fighting. However, reality is crystal clear. The FMLN army did not invade El Salvador from anywhere. The governments of Honduras and Guatemala are bitter enemies of the FMLN. The FMLN does not have frontiers with a friendly country through which it could receive significant logistical backing that could be the explanation for the progress and development of its forces. Many journalists have seen that there are no Cubans or Nicaraguans, much less Soviets, with the FMLN; that the great majority of the soldiers in the revolutionary army are Salvadoran peasants, students, and workers, that the rear guard of the FMLN is in El Salvador itself, and that its force resides in the tremendous human, moral, and material reserves which give it its solid support from among the people.

These are the real causes of the war in El Salvador and those who try to find them in the Soviet Union, Cuba, or Nicaragua are just as mistaken if not more so than those who over the years have only known how to respond with force to the demands of the people, thinking that they could in this way keep the people in check.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SITUATION RETURNING TO NORMAL

FL271454 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1202 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Text] The number of persons killed in the wave of violence that has swept over the Dominican Republic since Monday has increased to 62, although a certain normalization of the situation has been observed. In the capital and cities located in the interior of the country, several persons were killed yesterday by shots fired by the police and Army.

The situation in the Dominican Republic became increasingly difficult after the president of the Republic announced that he will not yield to the demands made by labor and defended the behavior of the Armed Forces in the incidents.

The labor unions have decided they will renew the protest movement throughout the entire country if the government of Jorge Blanco does not meet their demands; union spokesmen expressed the opinion that the president is deceiving the people.

CONTINUING REPORTAGE ON DOMESTIC SITUATION

Union Headquarters Occupied

PA271842 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1735 GMT 27 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 27 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Dominican Army today occupied the headquarters of the country's principal trade union after 3 days of violent protests against the increase in the price of staples which left 50 dead.

Official sources stated that troops were also deployed toward other labor union buildings in the capital, while President Salvador Jorge Blanco warned that the security forces will take all necessary precautions to prevent new disturbances.

More than 5,000 persons were arrested, 400 injured, and 50 killed in the clashes with the security forces during the 3 days of disturbances in which businesses were looted, buildings burned, and tires burned to form barricades.

Labor Unions Set Demands

PA281401 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1112 GMT 28 Apr 84

[By Bjorn Edlund]

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 27 Apr (LATIN-REUTER) -- The labor unions of the Dominican Republic have threatened to resume their protests unless the government suspends its talks with the IMF, whose austerity measures sparked bloody disturbances here.

In a joint communique published in a local newspaper today, the five principal labor organizations declared that the government must put an end to the talks, punish the security forces that provoked the death of 77 persons during the disturbances, and increase the minimum wages.

"Unless these demands are met before Tuesday, 1 May, we will resume our protests," the communique read.

Police forces closed several labor union headquarters yesterday and prevented the representatives from meeting to plan their activities for 1 May, International Labor Day.

President Salvador Jorge Blanco, whoe center-left Dominican Revolutionary Party reached power in 1978, as of last night had not made any comment regarding the labor organization's demand.

The security forces, patrolling the streets after the disorders and guarding the public buildings and business establishments that were looted during the disturbances, are in control of the situation.

The labor unions' demands coincide with the 19th anniversary of the invasion launched by U.S. forces against the Dominican Republic to quell what Washington then termed a left-wing rebellion.

Blanco told foreign correspondents that the authorities believe there may be some disturbances as a result of the anniversary, during which time activist groups usually burn U.S. flags.

The president predicted that the 1 May demonstrations will be authorized, as long as the organizations give timely advance notification.

Editorial Comments

FL272110 Santo Domingo Radio HIJB in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Apr 84

[EL CARIBE editorial]

[Text] It is slightly less than heresy these days, under the Dominican Republic's present living conditions, to speak adversely about a proposed increase in taxes and salaries. Nevertheless, we feel duty bound to make some observations before a legislative stampede begins, instigated by the last few days' events and by the IMF-generated explosive inflation, which is continuing to rise, and the increased tax burden on domestic industry and commerce.

We should state, from the start, that the unemployed are the ones most in need of resources, not the employed, even if their salary is insufficient to cover all of their basic necessities in this period of uncontrolled inflation. We believe, therefore, that any measure the government decides upon, whether it is legislative or administrative, should be directed at creating jobs.

Public works projects could be created and fiscal or other kinds of incentives could be extended to those who create jobs, to somehow increase production for the domestic market as well as export. If these practices were effected, perhaps then we could discuss increasing salaries and creating additional burdens, but only under the public and private sectors' close scrutiny of economic possibilities. It is very possible that in seeking improved earnings for workers and employees, a situation would be created which would force businessmen, overwhelmed by taxes and more fixed expenses, to reduce their number of employees, thus increasing unemployment and making the remedy more hazardous that the disease.

It is possible that the nation can bear additional taxes, but before imposing them, careful analysis of what kinds of taxes will be imposed must be made so that industries that must import their raw materials will not be adversely affected by the parallel market. Many of these industries are on the verge of bankruptcy and they must not be pushed to collapse. A collapse would be disastrous from the social, economic, and human viewpoint.

These are only emotional warnings, made knowing in advance that no one in this country seems prepared to hear them. But we feel duty bound to make them.